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Big fundraising push to reach target for vital project

HOSPICE LAUNCH APPEAL FOR £1m

Report by Dayna Farrington

A HOSPICE is appealing for help in raising the final £1 million required to build a new day services unit, which will see an extra 40 families supported every week.

Having raised £2.5m through major grants and the use of reserves, staff at Mary Stevens Hospice, which is in Stourbridge and also serves Halesowen, are asking the public to help them reach their final target of £3.5m.

Launching the campaign, Lesley Sidaway, one of the Hagley Road hospice's day service users, has spoken to help raise awareness of vital project

Lesley said: "I can never truly tell the people who care for me here how grateful I am for the support I and my family receive.

Battling

"I know how lucky I have been to come here so regularly to spend a day with people who have become close friends, and a team of angels

looking over me.
"My days at the hospice are some of the memories I most look forward to making, and everyone battling a life-limiting illness should have the opportunity to receive care, love and support. We, as a community, need this hospice, and now they need us."

As well as allowing the hospice to open its doors to 40 more families, the extension would

also include new treatment rooms and an on-site family apartment.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising,

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising, added: "The care we provide in times of need for families simply wouldn't be possible without the support we have received from our community over the last 25 years.
"However, in the last five years, we have been full to capacity in our day services unit every single day, which means there are families out there in our community who would benefit

there in our community who would benefit from our care and simply can't access it at the moment. This expansion will ensure that we

can care for more families when they need us."
A donation of £50 or more will see supporters commemorated in art work to stand in the entrance. To donate call (01384) 377778.

FIREFIGHTERS CLIMB A LADDER TO EVEREST HEIGHT



Step to it - firefighters from Haden Cross get ready for their Everest challenge on Saturday at the Merry Hill shopping centre

TEN members of a Black Country fire crew will be climbing the equivalent of the height of Mount Everest to raise funds for a fire-

of Mount Everest to raise lunds for a fire-fighting charity.

Firefighters from Haden Cross Fire Blue Watch and Green Watch will be scaling a lad-der 126 times each at the Merry Hill shop-ping centre, outside Debenhams, on Saturday

to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

The group will climb to raise the target of

£1,000 with an online campaign already see-

£1,000 with an online campaign already seeing £640 pledged in donations.

Blue Watch firefighter Matt Crawford, aged 35, who has been a firefighter for 11 years, said: "We are excited and proud to be able to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity. We are not nervous because we have trained hard and we know what to expect. We are there as a team and ultimately it is team work. there as a team and ultimately it is team work that gets anything done in the fire service

"It is not as easy as you think it is to climb "It is not as easy as you think it is to climb a ladder if you do it over and over again. The group have been exercising together trying to motivate each other."

Mr Crawford explained that they had been preparing for nearly three months both in the gym and on the ladders and every firefighter was doing it on their your time.

was doing it on their own time.

To donate to the cause visit www.justgiv

ing.com/fundraising/hadencross online

COURT

Teenager accused of rape and murder

A TEENAGE boy accused of raping and murdering a 14-year-old girl found dead in a Wolverhampton park has appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court The body of Viktorija Sokolova was discovered in West Park last week. The 16-year-old suspected of killing her, who can't be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth in a five-minute hearing on Monday on Monday

He was remanded in custody and was due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court this week.

HEALTH

A&E care under fire by watchdog

URGENT and emergency care at Russells Hall Hospital has been ranked inadequate by a health watchdog – with some patients suffering 'serious harm.'
That damning appraisal came as the Care Quality Commission concluded the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust needs to improve.
Its overall 'requires improvement' rating is the same as in its previous inspection four years ago.

TRAFFIC

Drivers facing delays during school work

DRIVERS have been warned to expect delays on a main road in Halesowen due to work being carried out at a school. Temporary traffic lights have gone up on Whittingham Road to allow work to be car-

ried out at Newfield Park Primary School.
A new classroom block has been built at the school, which is near to Halesowen

INSIDE WHO'S THE STAR LOT AT AUCTION





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head-on

Sting and Shaggy sail in to see Last Ship



Sting and Shaggy at the Alex on Monday

THE RED carpet was rolled out as superstars Sting and Shaggy made a

superstars Sting and Shaggy made a flying visit to Birmingham.

The musical duo, who have collaborated on a new album, were in the city for the opening night of Sting's debut musical The Last Ship.

Fans at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre were able to catch a glimpse of them before the former Police man's show opened.

Speaking after his swift red carpet entrance, Sting revealed he was feeling nervous about seeing his work

ing nervous about seeing his work hit the stage.

from Warsaw for the appearance, said: "There is always a sense of anticipation, a little anxiety, all of those things you need.

those things you need.
"I've seen this play many, many
times, in America, up in Liverpool
last week and Newcastle, and people
start crying. Not because it's terri-

start crying. Not because it is terri-ble but because they get emotionally swept up in the story."

The musical, which is at the the-atre until Saturday, was inspired by Sting's 1991 album The Soul Cages and his Tyneside childhood. It tells

demise of the shipbuilding industry with the closure of the Swan Hunter shipyard – see review on page 13.

The former frontman of The Police added: "I think the themes of the play will resonate very much with the people of Birmingham. It's about my community. about my community, my home-town."

town."
Reggae star Shaggy, best known for hits including Boombastic and It Wasn't Me, and Sting are preparing to release joint album 44/876 today (Friday)

Thug is jailed after slashing dog's throat

dog during a row with his partner has been jailed.

David Owen held the Staffordshire bull terrier by its muzzle and slashed

her throat with a carving knife.

The dog, called Lexi, miraculously survived the ordeal but RSPCA officers said she would have died had the blade gone a millimetre deeper.

Owen, aged 40, of Cole Street, Nether-

ton, was jailed for five months at Birming-ham Magistrates' Court over the attack on April 1 last year.

Lexi was left with the serious injury, which had been hastily bandaged, before the RSPCA became aware of the incident. Owen also sliced at the dog's left ear, leaving the tip hanging off.

When Lexi was examined, it was found a

when Lexi was examined, it was found a main artery in her throat had been missed by just a millimetre. Experts said contact with the artery would have meant her bleeding to death.

Recovery

The terrier has since gone on to make a full recovery and has been re-homed.

RSPCA inspector Steve Morrald said: "It really is amazing that Lexi has made such a fantastic recovery. The injury was serious but against the odds she pulled through.

"If the knife had gone just a tiny bit deeper I would have turned up at Owen's house to find a dag who had bled to death.

house to find a dog who had bled to death.

"Instead, despite being severely injured and in a bad way, we managed to get her veterinary help in the nick of time. "Thankfully she survived this horrific ordeal and I'm so pleased that she has been

adopted into a very loving family who dote

Owen, who had been found guilty in his absence at an earlier hearing, was banned from keeping animals for life. New owner Darren Chambers said: "Lexi

needed somewhere nice to live so she could realise that not everyone is like the person

Dumped puppies fighting for lives



The three English Bulldog puppies were found dumped in a crate under a bush in Halesowen

THREE puppies were left fighting for their lives after they were found dumped under a bush in Halesowen.

Vets now fear the English Bull-

dog puppies are suffering with 'canine distemper', which is often fatal, and is seen in puppies bred in large numbers of illegal puppy

The sibling puppies, thought to be just five-weeks-old, were found by a man in a crate with no food or water, when he was walking in

Hayes Lane, Halesowen last Thurs-

Hayes Lane, Halesowen last Thurs-day. They are now being treated on an isolation ward at RSCPA's New-brook Farm Animal Hospital. RSPCA inspector Mike Scargill, said: "Our vets are doing all they can for these three and I am re-ally hoping they pull through. For someone to have deliberately left them out in the celd in a crete with them out in the cold in a crate with no food or water is completely irre-sponsible and extremely cruel."

"It is most likely they have been dumped because they are so poorly.

It is possible they were either stolen and then dumped, or bred by an unscrupulous dog breeder who knew they couldn't make money from them and decided to throw

them out like rubbish."

Anyone with information,is asked to call 0300 123 8018.

It follows an incident when two

nt tollows an incident when two puppies were found dumped in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. They have since been named Bonnie and Clyde by staff at the RSPCA animal centre in Birmingham.

Mayor is **impressed** by college during tour

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street visited a Halesowen College to meet staff and students – and hailed it as 'one of the most impressive' he has seen.

rormer John Lewis boss Mr Street took a tour of Halesowen College's Whittingham Road campus and was impressed by the college's facilities, particularly in Science and Performing Arts.

The metro mayor spoke to students about ways in which the college could work with the West Midlands Combined Authority in the future.

David Williams, the college principal, said the students had enjoyed Mr Street's visit and he hoped it would encourage youngsters to engage in politics.

Mr Williams said: "It was great that

And took the time to speak to students, encouraging them to get more involved in local politics. He was clearly interested to hear their views and opinions."

Mr Street added: "The West Midlands has some fantastic further education establishments and I am constantly impressed with the innovative ways they go about this. Halesowen College is one of the most impressive I have seen and I wish to congratulate everyone involved.'

The college's next open evening is on Wednesday from 5 to 7.30pm.

Elkie gig rejig after losing voice

SINGER Elkie Brooks was forced to postpone her show in the West Midlands last weekend due to laryngitis.

The Lilac Wine star was set to play a greatest hits show at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, but was advised not

Hali on Satureay, but was advised not to perform.

Elkie, aged 73, is best known for hits such as Pearl's A Singer, Fool If You Think It's Over, and No More The Fool.

The Salford singer's management stated: "Unfortunately, due to laryngitis, Elkie has been advised to rest her voice and is unable to perform at the Town Hall this weekend. She sends her singers and looks forward to

Town rail this weekend. She sends her sincere apologies and looks forward to being back on stage on the revised date." Her show will now take place at the same venue on May 10. Tickets will be valid for the new date.

Golf club links up with family charity

A GOLF club will give a helping hand to Black Country families who have hit hard times with its charity of the year.

Hagley Golf Club has joined forces with Blackheath-based charity Loaves 'N' Fishes to help struggling families get



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More than 380

A TOTAL of 387 council-owned homes are empty in Dudley despite hundreds of families struggle to find

somewhere to live.

A DECISION not to build a new velodrome for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 has caused consternation among cycling enthu-

It now seems likely that Birming-ham and the Black Country's games will see cycling events taking place in London, despite the region's long and proud cycling heritage.

proud cycling heritage.

David Viner, a trustee at Halesowen Cycling and Athletic Club, said the £70 million investment in the Alexander Stadium announced by Prime Minister Theresa May last week showed there could be money made available for a velodrome.

A well in million pound agustics

A multi-million pound aquatics centre is also be built in Smethwick to host swimming and diving events in four years' time.

The countdown for the Birming-ham Games started on Sunday with a handover event seen by a TV audi-ence of millions as the 2018 Games on Australia's Gold Coast drew to a close.

Mr Viner said: "Following on from Mr Viner said: "Following on Hour £60m being spent on the new swim-ming pool – another great legacy from 2022 – it is interesting to hear people like Mayor Street say there is not enough money to build a velodrome."

Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter is among those who have called for the West Midlands to have its own velodrome for the competition

Sir Lenny and the wolf in concert

SIR Lenny Henry will be narrating Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf in a performance at a prestigious West Midlands concert venue next month.

The Dudley-born actor and comedian, who is also Chancellor of Birmingham City University, will join the conductor Christopher Houlding the conductor Christopher Houlding and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Pops Orchestra for the concert on May 4. It is at the £57 million Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, run by Birmingham City University.

The date is special for Star Wars fans and music from the hit movies will also feature.

will also feature

Tickets cost £22 adults and £15 concessions. Visit www.bcu.ac.uk/ conservatoire/events-calendar/lenny-henry-peter-and-the-wolf

Appeal to family

THE coroner's office is trying to find family of a man found dead at an address in Dudley. Graham Cooper, 69, was discovered in Butterfield Court, Short Street, on April 9. Contact Wen-dy Plummer on 0121 569 6990.

MP's marathon effort for care centre



James Morris MP and Andy Snead

HALESOWEN'S MP is running the London Marathon to help raise funds

for a local charity.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, will tackle the marathon on Sunday along with 19 other MPs - a record number of Parliamentary marathon runners.
Conservative Mr Morris is raising

money for Halesowen-based Halas

He said: "I decided to set myself a personal challenge this year of running a marathon, having never really run more than 10km before.

£2,500 for the charity, said: "Since becoming an MP I have visited Halas Homes several times and have always left feeling uplifted by the amazing work that they do here in our local community.

"It truly is a wonderful place to be and I know it's a place that many peo-

ple rely on for help and support."

Also running for Halas Homes is Halesowen resident Andy Snead.

Alison Sayer, chief of Halas Homes, aid: "The money that both James

the refurbishment of our day centre, which needs to be redeveloped to bet ter suit the needs of our users.

"We often have people taking part

in dancing and drama at the same time as others doing quiet activities. "So we would like to install a partition wall which will divide the large room

– separating the activities.

'The partition will also give us the option of keeping it as a large room for when we need the extra space."

People wanting to support the MP can visit www.mydonate.bt.com/fund raisers/jamesmorrishrr online

Dave is

seeking

Invictus

sponsor

somewhere to live. The Dudley figure is higher than Wolverhampton (168), Sandwell (169) and Walsall (90). However, the number of vacant Dudley Council properties is considerably fewer than April last year, when the figure was 617. Alan Lunt, Dudley's deputy chief executive, said: "The majority of homes owned by Dudley Council that are currently empty are either already allocated to prospective tenants, being advertised, or shortlisting from more than one interested applicant." than one interested applicant. Staff rebel over uniform changes

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital is replacing the uniform of its non-registered healthcare staff from blue to 'biscuit'. Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, says it well help patients tell the difference between registered and non-registered care registered and non-registered care staff. But it has proved unpopular with some staff who have supported an online petition named Keep Dudley Group Uniform Blue. Chief executive Diane Wake said the change would make it easier to tell nurses, matrons and doctors from ward clerks and support workers.

ward clerks and support workers.

Bus firm profits are iust the ticket

BLACK Country-based bus and coach operator Rotala, which includes Dia-mond Bus, has reported rises in both profits and turnover for its latest fi-

profits and utmover for its fatest in-nancial year.

Adjusted pre-tax profit was up by 20 per cent to £3.22 million on turnover which grew five per cent to £57.9m for the year to the end of November. The Trividale-based business bought three companies during the year to expand operations in the West Midlands, the North West and at Heathrow airport. They included Hansons (Wordsley) for £608,000.

£70,000 free parking scheme is launched

A NEW £700,000 free car parking scheme has launched across Dudley

borough.

Shoppers will now be able to park for two hours free at all council car

for two hours free at all council car parks in the borough. The launch on Monday followed a successful trial of the scheme last year which saw shoppers able to park for up to two free hours free in Hale-sowen, Stourbridge and Sedgley from April to August.

and Andy are raising will go towards ouncil's camera in cab move to help taxi safety

TAXIS in Dudley could be equipped with CCTV in a bid to protect both drivers and passengers from harm.

Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles would be fitted with cameras under new proposals being considered by Dudley Council's taxi committee today (Thursday).

(Thursday).

Plans have been drawn up after taxi drivers approached council bosses with safety concerns. Shaz Saleem, the chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, has welcomed the proposals but feels Dudley Council has taken too long in addressing the issue.

Mr Saleem said: "We have wanted CCTV for a while. We can't use CCTV at the moment and need the council's permission to do so. "We were given verbal permission in November but haven't had anything vet in writing.

ber but haven't had anything yet in writing.
"We are still talking about CCTV when drivers are getting attacked left, right and centre.
How can the council treat drivers like this and why has it taken so long? Taxi drivers face danger and we have been saying it for a while

Council bosses look likely to back the plans.

Responsible

They want taxi drivers to install their own equipment and be responsible for the footage. The council would not be responsible for any data breaches, such as the misuse of data,

data breaches, such as the misuse of data, which could prove costly if they were penalised. Mr Saleem has also backed that proposal but there are different options on the table. Dudley Council had previously drawn up plans which would see the local authority responsible for all CCTV footage. However, legistation from the European Union is coming into effect next month which will place more responsibility on data badger. This has resulting the misch place which were responsibility on data badger. sponsibility on data holders. This has resulted in Dudley Council opting to give taxi drivers full control of CCTV in their cabs. Legislation will give more power to people to access video of themselves from local authorities.

of themselves from local attainments.

Councillor Alan Hopwood, chairman of the taxi committee, said: "The committee likes the idea of fitting CCTV optionality in vehicles without council-imposed controls



Dave Watson, 31, from Romsley, near Halesowen, is in training

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W5.6



BUYER demand for housing in the West Midlands continues to fall, new

West Midlands continues to fall, new data reveals.

The RICS UK Residential Market survey reports buyer demand has dropped for the seventh consecutive month in the region. It revealed one of the main reasons was a lack of fresh stock coming onto the West Midlands' market alongside ongoing concerns market, alongside ongoing concerns over affordability as house prices con-

over affordability as house prices con-tinued to rise.

Average stock levels on estate agents' books remains near an all-time low as the number of houses being put up for sale fell for the 30th consecutive month.

Metro numbers 'balancing out'

BOSSES at Midland Metro have said passenger numbers had started to 'balance out', after a drop in January

particularly on weekends.
Sophie Allison, Metro operations
manager, said the figures were starting to come back to where they expect
at last week's West Midlands Com-

bined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee meeting.

The figures showed that the net-work saw a nine per cent fall in travelling customers during January

Entries invited for canalside exhibition

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is holding its second open display of art

nolding its second open display of art and photography.

Entries are invited for the exhibi-tion that will be held in the Waterside Gallery at The Portal, Birmingham New Road, from July 16 to September 16. It is open to all ages or abilities for art works in any kind of media as long as they can be wall mounted. The deadline is June 30. See dudleycanal trust.org.uk/open-exhibition-2018/

First Doctor Who script ip for sale at auction

copy of the first ever Doctor Who script - is going under the hammer

in Dudley.

The stained and slightly battered type-written artefact belonged to actor William Hartnell, the original Time Lord.

It covers the first episode, An Unearthly Child, of the first adventure, Doctor Who and the Trible of Chilm. It toget to auction in Dud

the Tribe of Gum. It goes to auction in Dudley as part of a film and music memorabilia sale on May 3, and is estimated to fetch up to £8,000. Written by Anthony Coburn, it was first broadcast by the BBC on November 23,

first broadcast by the BBC on November 23, 1963, introducing Hartnell as the first Doctor. In the first episode, which was screened the day after President Kennedy was assassinated, Carole Ann Ford played the Doctor's young companion, Susan. Her unusual behaviour becomes the focus of concern by two of her schoolteachers, played by Jacqueline Hill and William Russell, who enter a police phone box after hearing Susan's voice. Inside they are amazed to find a large room. The Doctor, fearing they will give away the secret of his fearing they will give away the secret of his time-travelling spacecraft in disguise, takes them to the Stone Age.

them to the Stone Age.

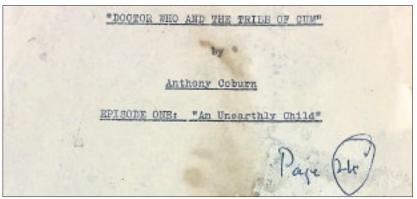
The 43-page script, complete with pencil annotations by Hartnell, was discovered by the vendor's grandfather, a builder, while refurbishing Hartnell's flat in East Sussex, and was among items to be thrown out.

Expert Chris Yeo, who inspected the script on TV's Antiques Roadshow, said: "This is the DNA of Doctor Who, the genesis of the programme it's a very very important thing."

DNA of Doctor Who, the genesis of the programme, it's a very, very important thing."

The thirteenth Doctor made her debut in the closing moments of Twice Upon a Time, the 2017 Christmas special, when the public got their first glimpse of Jodie Whittaker, the first female incarnation of the iconic sci-fickparater.

The script will be sold at Aston's Auction-eer's at Baylies Hall in Tower Street.



A piece of TV history - the title page of the script for the first ever episode of Doctor Who







Stars Jacqueline Hill, Carole Ann Ford and William Russell

Merry Hill Carpetright store marked for closure

STRUGGLING retailer Carpetright is closing its branch at the Merry Hill shopping centre amid plans to axe hundreds of jobs across the country.

The firm has unveiled plans to shut 81 shops – including the Merry Hill store – under a sweeping restructure that will see 300 job roles lost. Neighbouring stores in Oldbury and Wolverhampton are not affected.

The chain said 92 sites had been earmarked for closure from the end of September, although 11 have already

stopped trading.

Rent on another 113 is set to be cut
under proposals being put to landlords. It said it hopes to relocate staff

where possible.

The group – which employs nearly 2,700 staff in total at 409 sites – also confirmed an investor cash-call to raise around £60 million through a rights issue to put the company on a firmer financial footing.

Breach

The details came as it revealed a 'technical breach' of its banking arrangements.

rangements.

Carpetright chief Wilf Walsh said:
"These tough but necessary actions
will enable us to address the burden
of a legacy UK property estate consisting of too many poorly located
stores on unsustainable rents, and
are essential if we are to restore our profitability and deliver a successful turnaround. "We will remain in close contact

with all colleagues to keep them fully informed as we move through this

Carpetright said planned closures would not affect customers with all orders to be fulfilled either by the original store or a neighbouring Carpetright where necessary



Gheorghe Mihai, aged 38, stabbed his 23-year-old sister-in-law Roxanna Mihai five times in a car park off Lye High Street, just months after arriving in the UK.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told the 'highly volatile' thug: "You are a dangerous man who represents a serious risk of causing serious harm to members of the public.

"Loss of life by those who carry knives in the recent past has been a cause of grave concern in this country and courts will not hesitate to pass severe sentences."

Mihai was jailed for life and must serve at least 10 years before being considered for parole.

Battered

The court heard that Mihai had battered a man to death with a piece of wood in his home country in 2004,

resulting in seven years behind bars.

Mihai launched the savage attack with a large kitchen knife on his sis-ter-in-law at a bus stop after she in-terrupted him talking to her husband, his step-brother Nicursor Gheorghe, from whom he was trying to borrow

Witness Kieran Langan said the defendant, who lived in Park Street, Lye, looked like 'a man possessed' during the assault on August 7 last

The knife-wielding attacker has chased the terrified woman, stabbing her five times after she tripped in a

She was saved when her husband caught up and punched his step-brother in the face.

The defendant has denied attempted murder and possession of an offensive weapon but was convicted

Guardian

Bullring owner steps away 5 from deal for Merry Hill's Intu

£1m Yemeni centre opens after 10 years



Deputy Mayor of Dudley and Halesowen South councillor Alan Taylor with youngsters from the Yemeni association

MORE than 500 people attended the opening of a new £1 million community centre in Halesowen after ten years of fundraising by the Yemeni commu-

Halesowen and Dudley Yemeni Community Association officially opened its Halesowen Cultural Cen-tre in Highfield Lane on Friday. Residents, dignitaries and representatives from schools, colleges and churches attended the opening celebration

Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, officially cut the ribbon to open the centre. The first stage of the centre's build-

ing work took place in 2013.

The association hope the centre will be used by the whole community in

Halesowen.

Marwan Bakaili, chairman of the association, said "We built the centre in three stages, with the first stage starting in December 2013. It has been

funded the community association, the community and individual donations.
The centre will be used by the whole community, not just the association., bringing the whole community to-

gether."
Moammer Nasser, association trustee, added: "The real work starts now. It is about building those bridges between us and the local community. It is about forming friendships and part-

IT LOOKS like the £3.4 billion deal to combine two of the UK's biggest shopping centre owners is off.

Bullring and Grand Central owner Hammerson this week said that it is no longer recommending that shareholders vote in favour of its acquisition of Intu, which includes the Intu Merry Hill shopping centre, just months after announcing an all-share offer for the firm. The take-over would have created the UK's biggest property company, worth

Hammerson said in a market an-nouncement: "The Hammerson Board firmly believed in the strategic ration-ale of combining Intv's portfolio with Hammerson's, under the leadership of the Hammerson management team, and the opportunity it provided for value creation in the medium to long

"The board has now concluded that the proposed Intu acquisition is no longer in the best interests of share-holders."

Perception

Hammerson detailed the reasons it was withdrawing its recommendation, including that the stock market's view that the UK retail property market had 'deteriorated' since the start of the year. "This perception has been intensified by market concerns over the extended period of time that it would extended period of time that it would take to complete the transaction and realise longer-term returns from the Intu acquisition," it added. Chairman David Tyler said: "After careful consideration, the board has

concluded it is no longer in the best interests of shareholders to carry out the Intu acquisition."

Intu group company secretary Susan Marsden said it regarded as un-satisfactory the explanations given by the board of Hammerson for its with-

Dancers in tribute to **Bowie at Rep**

ACCLAIMED choreographer Michael Clark pays tribute to one of his heroes, David Bowie, as part of his latest production, which comes to Birming-ham Rep next week.

To A Simple, Rock 'n' Roll... Song

To A Simple, Rock 'n' Roll... Song features a dance interpretation of Bowie's final work, Dark Star, by the Michael Clark Company, alongside music from Erik Satie and Patti Smith. Clark shook up the dance world during the 1980s with his punk-inspired dance productions and this latest work, which had its premiers in London in 2016, was premiere in London in 2016, was nominated for an Olivier Award. It is staged on Tuesday. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Another highlight for dance fans will be Manuel Liñan, one of Spain's most celebrated flamenco dancers. presenting Sinergia at Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Centre on April 26. Call 0844 338 5000.





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ABLE ON MAY INSTALLATIONS

IN MY VIEW

Sour note as speed bumps go musical

NOW this is what you call traffic manage ment. In an attempt to get motorists to stick to the speed limit, local bigwigs representing Jelsum in the Netherlands had the bright idea of installing musical rum-ble strips along the road into the village. When cars drive over the strips at the

correct speed of 40mph, sensors in the road activate chimes which reward the driver by playing the Friesland provincial anthem. You don't think they had been

anthem. You don't think they had been smoking anything unusual before the meeting, do you?

Still, it sounds a sight more fun than the infuriating speed humps, barriers, chicanes and white paint we get in this country. However, it does not seem to country. However, it does not seem to be music to the ears of residents, who complained of being kept awake by the continuous droning which travels right the way through the village.

One resident complained of artistic taxi drivers going back and forth all night at varying speeds to produce their own arrangements.

rangements.
"Last Saturday night the taxis were driving from Leeuwarden to Stiens and on the way back, they tried to go across the lines as quickly as possible and we had the anthem playing all night at high speed," said one.

Some people will complain about anything, won't they? They ought to try living along some of our country lanes, where drivers crash over the massive potholes day and night. Not nearly so tuneful.

AFTER years in the wilderness, it looks like the Black Country could soon be back on the national railway map. Well sort of. Seven new stations are being considered for the West Midlands, including the re-

opening of Darlaston and Willenhall stations. This sounds like great news.

I do worry about plans for a new service linking Wolverhampton to the Merry Hill shopping centre, though, with no mention whatsoever of a stop at Dudley along the way. Town centres have it tough enough as it is, without giving Wulfrunians an easy route to an out-of-town shopping centre. I fear that can only suck more life out of the city. And if you are going to create this service, why wouldn't you have a station in Dudley, next to the zoo, Black Country Museum and dare we say it the Country Museum and, dare we say it, the Hippodrome theatre? So much for creating a major tourist zone.

Interestingly, while Dudley Zoo appears

to have been overlooked, rail chiefs are keen to provide a service to West Midland Safari Park. So, you get off the train, pay your admission, and walk straight into the lion enclosure. Remind me to bring

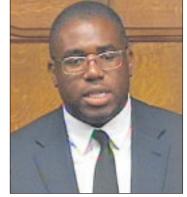
'Men deserts' – where young boys lack role models



Eric Bristow – achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away



Peter Kay – no leak on what was the unforeseen family circumstances



David Lammy - Tottenham MP, was under-standably emotional over death toll rise

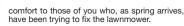
Rising death toll and the absent fathers

AS the death toll rises on London's streets AS the death toll rises on London's streets, the commonest cry is "Where are you?" David Lammy, the black MP for Tottenham, was understandably emotional as he yelled: "Why is there a political vacuum? Where is the Prime Minister? Where is the Home Secretary? Where is Sadiq Khan?" A street demo took up the cry for the guilty missing: "Where are the police, where are the pastors?" And yet no-one shoutdethe most crucial question of all. Where are ed the most crucial question of all. Where are

TIME after time, academic studies of gang culture in black communities highlight the huge numbers of absent fathers. Some neighbourhoods are dubbed "men deserts" because most households are run by a woman and young black boys have no role models in the home. David Lammy knows all about it; his own father walked out on the family and fled to America. Why are politicians so reluctant to mention this issue? Probably because they are instantly howled down and accused of attacking, undermining and disrespecting single mothers. But as Lammy wrote in the Daily Telegraph six years ago: "Many single mothers do a heroic job looking after their families . . . but it becomes twice as hard to set boundaries with half the number of parents." And while more cops, more pastors and more interest from politicians might help London's agony, it is hard to see any end to the carnage when so many dads are missing and David Lammy knows all about it: his own father carnage when so many dads are missing and no-one is setting any boundaries.

I WROTE recently ago about my Saturday job as a 15-year-old mechanic's mate. Jim the me-chanic taught me a lesson which has stood me in good stead. It is this: if you dismantle something and then reassemble it, there will always be a few bits left over. I hope this brings some

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I THOUGHT the public sector was being educated to address people correctly. A reader tells me he has a relative in hospital in East Anglia. Every time he telephones the place he is greeted with "Allo, moi luvverly."

YOU may think we live in a world where the all-prying internet lays bare all our deepest secrets. Is nothing confidential any more? And then you think of Peter Kay, currently launching the third and final series of Car Share. In December last year Kay suddenly announced: "Due to unforeseen family circumstances, I deeply regret that I am having to cancel all of my upcoming work projects." And from that day to this no-one has discovered what the unfore seen family circumstances were. Not a leak, not a peep. Extraordinary.

TALKING of which, here's a new advert: It's the deadliest nerve agent ever invented! It penetrates the latest protective suits! A single drop can kill an entire army in seconds! Especially effective against old Russians and their daughters! Novichok - it doesn't do exactly what it says on the tin.

THE Salisbury incident is turning into a sort of test of patriotism. If you believe the official government line, then you are a good egg. If you happen to think, like Mr Corbyn and me, have raced ahead of the hard evidence, you are a 'useful idiot' doing the Kremlin's work. I am expecting a sackful of roubles any day now.

A SURVEY by a mineral-water company suggests mosts Brits are stuck in a Groundhog Day existence, endlessly repeating the same con-versations, same breakfasts, same dinner, same holiday destinations, same advice to children, and so on. But what has any of this to do with bottled water? A spokeswoman for the company declares: "We're all naturally driven to make the most of every day and being properly hy-drated helps us get there." Advertising - same old cobblers.

ERIC Bristow has died far too soon but the darts legend may have achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away. In the Falkland Islands, the helicopters used by civilians and UK military in the years after the 1982 war were provided by the aviation company Bristow. Inevita-bly, the squaddies called the helicopters Erics and, all these years later, the term is still in use.

JEREMY Clarkson tells the story of a lad who was horrified to find so many deductions from his first wage packet. It was explained that this money was taken to pay for hospital, schools and so on. The boy accepted it stoically. But the next week, when his second wage packet arrived, he rang home in despair: "Mum - they've done it again.

MICE have reappeared in our house, the garden is full of rabbits, a pheasant has built a nest under one window and the other night a rat wandered across the yard. What has changed?
It is six weeks since our old tabby cat died.

TALKING POINT

Response to the bad weather is – panic!

WITH temperatures creeping up, daffodils out and a promise that spring might actually be here, it is time to reflect on this miserable wintertime.

Snow, wind, rain, floods we have had it all. So what have we learnt during these bleak winter days? Personally, I have dis-

bleak Winter days? Personally, I have discovered the following 10 things:

1 There is a Beast of the East. He has rarely troubled us in the past but after the first rampage he got a taste for mayhem and misery and decided to come back and the mini beasts were also fearsome.

2 There are different kinds of snow. Apparently you can have 3ft of snow in the

parently you can have 3ft of snow in the back garden but may not be able to build a decent snowman. Snow from the east seems to be very fine.

3 Our country is no longer equipped to deal with rain or thawing snow. Any persistent rain will lead to flood alerts and sewage floating into someone's back

4 Britain's roads are in no state to handle bad weather. Whatever the weather may bring over winter we can be sure that we will be left with roads resembling the surface of the Moon. And there is nothing a pothole loves more than a puddle to hide in.

5 Despite snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one arrogant mo-torist who will drive at the speed limit – at a minimum - because a bit of bad weather isn't going to stop them. This persists even if it means they are driving so close that they are forcing you out of the narrow snow tracks while they overtake, or your car is drowned as they steam through

6 In snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one terrified driver who should not have left the house and is clutching the steering wheel in fear, barely clocking up 10mph. This means you are struggling to maintain a braking distance and are forced out of the narrow snow tracks or into a deeper part of the puddle to vertake. puddle to overtake. 7 It does not actually have to snow for

/ It does not actually have to snow for schools to shut, the mere threat is enough for the circulation of 'school closure' texts. And don't assume just because the teachers have made it in that your children will be allowed to stay in school.

8 The slightest incline that you have never even noticed before becomes activalent to the Eiger for any MCVs.

equivalent to the Eiger for any HGVs or buses when covered in snow/ice. 9 HGVs and buses should not go out

when roads are covered in snow and par-ticularly not in hilly Staffordshire 10 However much warning we are giv-en there will only ever be one response from us Brits - panic!

DIANE DAVIES

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Why destroy 'our' Dudley Hippodrome?

I WOULD like to know why Dudley Council (the self-proclaimed historical capital of the Black Country) want to pull down, to destroy and demolish our Dudley Hippodrome. It really makes no sense at all and

I have never had an answer as to why

and to this day the acoustics and theatrical feel it has inside is quite breath-

taking and wonderful.
Sadly none of the Dudley councillors have ever been inside.

they intend to do it.

Our Dudley Hippodrome is the last remaining lyric theatre designed by the renowned Archibald Hurley Robinson who drew up the plans and commissioned local suppliers and contractors wherever possible.

Baggeridge bricks were used on the

massive walls of the building. It was built to hold more than 1,700 patrons like our council to be open and transparent

parent.
At our local community forum in Kingswinford, I was prevented from bringing up anything on our Dudley Hippodrome as it was a 'Dudley' matter. What is the council afraid of? What haven't we been told and why?
Hoping that this letter may shed some light on the matter and that our

some light on the matter and that our local paper can take an interest in this very important decision.

MARLENE WATSON

30 years to catch on

IT'S so nice to see that our MPs are keeping their eye on the ball, not much is get-

ting past them.

When they see a problem they react and demand change, they always put their constituents first, if they see a wrong they make

it right.

Now they have discovered that petrol stations are ripping us off at motorway service areas.

Can I just say that any motorist could have told these MPs the same thing anytime in the last 30 to 40

years!
I can't believe how quick they are.

Just in case another 30 to 40 years go by can I also tell them we are being ripped off over council tax, electric, gas and water bills, train fares, car tax, car and home insur-ance, interest rates, food, HS2, to name but a few.

But Well done for spotting

the petrol price Brierley Hill

It took MPs **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

105O

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which can be seen at www. ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accu-racy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

If we cannot reach a resolution contact lpso at complaints@ipso. co.uk or by post at lpso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, Lon-don, EC4M 7LG

Focus on the causes of drug addiction

COUNCILLOR Harley's simplistic reason for the rise in drug addiction in Dudley rests upon his argument that 'hard drugs are becoming socially acceptable'. He concludes that the only way to eradicate the problem is a war

on drugs.

Drug abuse has a complexity of causes. Signalling out one feature in any individual is unhelpful. Attention has to one reature in any intuitious is uninerpine. Accention has so focus on factors such as a history of mental illness, stress, having a poor social and economic background, experimenting with drugs and poor parental supervision.

To ignore the causes is to ignore how the problem can

rationally be dealt with.

EDWARD DAVIES

Stourbridge

Region's rail policy 'stupidity'

HOW is it that patriotic, flag waving Great Brexit Britain is buying foreign built 'bus on rails' trams - at ten times the price of a double decker bus - to wreck any possibility of our British built hydrogen-elec-tric trains completing the 120km Black Country rail-120km Black Country Fan-way? This means slow, fre-quent stopping trams pre-venting forever the train that, last year, we sold to Germany – 14 British hy-Germany – 14 British hydrogen electric trains are now in use in Lower Saxony.

Turning a 120km railway of national strategic significance (Network Rail/DfT) into a piddling little tram line of 6.7km is the ulti-mate stupidity. Because of devolution, it seems central Government are powerless to stop the idiocy of the W Mids Combined Authority, the incompetence of Mayor Andy Street and his transport lead, Cllr Roger Law-rence. Both should go – now. TIM WELLER



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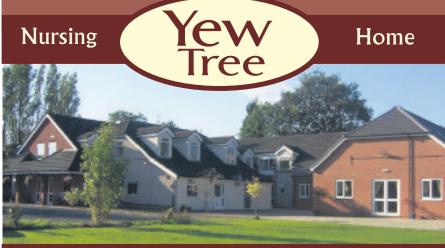
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* Mayor calls for green energy initiative to boost business

A MULTI-MILLION pound green energy zone that will lower household bills and boost businesses has been proposed for the Black Country.

A report has called for four Energy Innovation Zones (EIZs) in the West Midlands, with sites at Dudley, Darlaston and Wolverhampton under consideration.

The zones will be tasked with providing a cheaper and plentiful power supply for industry and homes, and cutting air pollution. The development of new energy supplies has been described as 'crucial' by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, who is pushing for Government funding to get EIZs off the Recruit will be dedicated to the Edge

to become closely involved with a popular tourist attraction and help advise the National Trust on its upkeep. The Kinver Edge committee is

looking for a new member, who must be committed to Kinver Edge and be happy to become part of a friendly and dedicated team.

dedicated team. Whoever applies for the vacant seat will need to seek the best for the future of the area, which provides stuning views over the Black Country and the Shropshire Hills.

The committee meets up to five times a year and anyone wanting to apply is asked to write to John Sharkey. Kinyer Edge Committee Secretary.

key, Kinver Edge Committee Secretary, at 47 Harvine Walk, Norton, Stourbridge. The committee works alongside custodians of the famous rock houses, the National Trust.

Firm's £10,000 donation to hospital



Eloise Davidson, of Birmingham Children's Hospital, with Mary Mocklow and Ian Bond, of Talbots Law

STAFF from a leading Black Country law firm have pledged their support to help Birmingham Children's Hospital carry out its life-saving care.

Talbots Law named the UK's leading specialist paediatric centre as its 'Charity of the Year' and has already presented it with a £10,000 donation to help it deliver treatments, complex surgical procedures and cutting-edge research to young people up to the age earch to young people up to the age

Employees from across the compa-y's seven offices were invited to nominate their preferred good causes and, following much deliberation, the three most popular choices were put forward for a final vote that was made at the

business' annual party.
Talbots has offices in Dudley, Stour-bridge, Halesowen, Kidderminster, Stourport, Wolverhampton and Cod-

sall. Mary Mocklow, chief executive of

Talbots Law, said: "There was a lot of personal stories of families and friends

personal stories of families and friends that have been helped and supported by Birmingham Children's Hospital. "We always kick-start the year of fundraising by donating an initial sum and then we hope to build on this through a host of different activities that will be organised by the firm and our employees. The emphasis is on catting as mean resolutions and control of the con getting as many people involved as possible."

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Sir Lenny urges support for petition

DUDLEY-BORN actor and comedian Sir Lenny Henry is urging people to sign a petition for an immigration amnesty for those who arrived in Britain decades ago.

Britain decades ago.

Known as the of the 'Windrush Generation', settlers from Caribbean Commonwealth nations were invited to live and work in the UK as British subjects following the Second World War to help address labour shortages and help rebuild war-damaged Britain. But an anomaly in the law means many who arrived in the 1950s and many who arrived in the 1950s and 1960s were never formally natural-

Thousands have suffered immigra-tion problems and many are being denied health services or prevented from working despite having lived in the UK their whole adult life.

Sir Lenny has tweeted his support

or the petition.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, has also signed the petition calling for an amnesty for those who arrived as minors before 1971.

He has been joined by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Bishop of Stafford, and the chairman of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church. See petition.parliament. uk/petitions/216539

Rock and pop choir sing at town hall

DYNAMICS Rock and Pop Choir returns to the stage in Dudley on June 6. The Dynamics Decades concert in Dudley Town Hall is to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. The choir will be joined by Tipton Treblemakers and a live band for the event. Tickets are £10 and can be bought through the choir's Facebook page.

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He says that the region will eventually become reliant on green energy to stave off capacity problems, and needs its own sources to enable businesses to

Revolution

The Energy Innovation Commission's report, which was headed by former Government chief scientific advisor Sir David King, said the West Midlands was at the forefront of the

Midlands was at the foreront of the modern energy revolution.

Mr Street said: "The commission has done a brilliant job in putting together a detailed and thorough report. The whole issue of energy will become of great significance as we go forward. "For manufacturers in the West Midlands the cost of paperay is impor-

Midlands, the cost of energy is important, and given our dependence as a region on manufacturers, this becomes critical. There is no escaping the fact that some manufacturing investments in the region are dependant on a new

supply of energy. It is a current constraint and therefore really does mat-

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WOLVERHAMPTON

Chamber's first female president



Chartered management accountant Julie Cunningham. of Willenhall-based AF Blakemore, is the new president

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has appointed its first female president – AF Blakemore's wholesale finance director Julie Cunningham.

The chartered management accountant has a wealth of commercial experience across a number of organisations, including Midland Recruitment Solutions and Poundland. She also spent six years as a self-employed financial consultant and headed up high-level projects on behalf of the Co-op, Holland & Barrett, M&S, Homeserve and the RAC.

At Willenhall-based AF Blakemore she sits on six divi-At Willennail-based AF Biakemore she sits on six divi-sional boards and has expertise in defining, implement-ing and managing strategy. She said: I am delighted to be taking on the position as president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, especially given that I am the first female to have been appointed to the role. I want to work closely with members to raise the profile of our local cham-ber on both a regional and national level."

Biggest business festival is set to start

try Business Festival and 19 of the more than 120 events between then and May 4 will be taking place in the Dudley area.

In its inaugural year, the festival is already the biggest business event in the region.

The festival will see everything from seminars, work-

shops, behind-the-scenes

tours and speed networking to conferences, exhibitions and debates. Most events are completely free to at-

Data

The Dudley-based events are being held in a range of different and interesting venues within the area, such as the Showcase Cinema, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley Canal Trust, Intu Merry Hill shopping centre and at several locally-based businesses which are runing their own ire running their own

A array of subject matters comprise property develop-ment, general data protec-tion regulations (GDPR), diversity, apprenticeships, exports, recruitment, fund-

By Fiona Smith

ing and credit, as well as health and safety.

Helen Martin is the chief Helen Martin is the chief officer for regeneration and enterprise at Dudley Council, the authority behind DY5 – Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone – and a partner of the Business Festival. She said, "It's fantastic to see so many eyents in our area." many events in our area.

"We are very much look-ing forward to the start of our first Business Festival and are delighted that DY5 is playing an integral part.'

All the events are listed on the website www.black countrybusinessfestival. com where tickets are also available on a first come first served basis.

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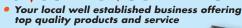




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Council House demo over travellers' site

CAMPAIGNERS have protested over plans for a temporary travellers site - and handed over a petition signed

by nearly 1,000 people.

Members of the action group
Coseley Focus stood at the foot of Dudley Council House to voice their opposition to proposals to build the transit site on Budden

Road in Coseley.

And they vowed to 'do whatever it takes' to stop the plans.

The council is setting up the site in a bid to tackle illegal camps, which will cost taxpayers £150,000 a year in clean-up and legal fees. Budden Road has been chosen as the preferred site but the public can still have their say as part of a planning application.

Concerns

Coseley Focus has 956 signatures on a petition opposing the specific site, which was given to councillors before a full council meeting last week. The council has pushed back the date for

council has pushed back the date for objections to April 26.

Campaigner Tony Sheldon, aged 70, of Gough Road, Coseley raised concerns about the land in Budden Road being 'contaminated'. He said the protest had proved a success, adding: "It was a good day for us. We did not get as many as expected but we accomplished what we wanted to."

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We have gone through quite a democratic process. During the consultation process residents and councillors were

process residents and councillors were asked to submit alternative sites and they did, but none matched the criteria Budden Road did.

The council and police will be able to move travellers onto the transit site from camps elsewhere in the borough.



Campaigners take their contamination message to Dudley Council

Tnrowaway cup concern

HOSPITALS in the Black Country and Birmingham purchased millions of disposable cups over the last five

years, new figures show.
Data obtained through Freedom
of Information requests showed that
NHS trusts in the West Midlands had bought millions of cups since 2013, amid rising concern over the environ-mental impact of single-use throwa-

Figures from Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Rus-sells Hall, showed it received 62,925 cups but this does not include cups purchased through the trust's PFI

partner.
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, ordered nearly four million and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust 10.1 million.

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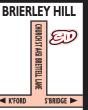


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More than

MORE than 7,000 tetanus vaccines have been donated to Unicef from lo-

cal NHS trusts to help save the lives of thousands of children.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health

Partnership NHS Trust pledged to donate 10 life-saving tetanus vaccina-

to the saving tetrains vactine tions for every single flu vaccine given to staff who work there.

More than 70 per cent of frontline healthcare staff at the trust got their flu jab this year after they were encouraged to do so to protect them.

couraged to do so to protect themselves and their patients from flu, but also to help save the lives of children around the world who will benefit

from receiving essential tetanus vac-

Mark Axcell chief executive officer

said getting the flu had not only pro-tected staff and those around them

but many young children without access to healthcare.

Paying to use bus station loo is insulting — councillor

THE installation of paid toilet facilities at West Bromwich bus station has been described as 'insulting to communities' by a councillor during a region-wide transport meeting.

The project to refurbish the toilets at West Bromwich bus station was discussed as part of the Transport for West Midlands Infrastructure Report at the West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee meeting which took place last Monday.

The current facilities at the station

receive poor customer feedback and works to refurbish the facilities are expected to be carried out over the next six months. The project would include upgrades to all fabrics, water efficiency measures, flooring, ventilation and the installation of pay-to-use toilet turnstiles. 7,000 tetanus vaccinations

toilet turnstiles.

A major revamp to Walsall's busiest bus station is also expected to see the introduction of a pay-to-use turnstile in the toilets.

Pay-to-use toilets are already in-

Pay-to-use toilets are already installed at Stourbridge and Wolverhampton bus stations.

Councillor Judith Rowley said: "To charge for toilets is insulting to our communities.

"It is a public health issue. If there are no toilets to be accessed we all know what is going to happen. It is a whole load of tosh."

Councillor Roger Horton also said

Councillor Roger Horton also said he did not agree on charging people to use the facilities.

Councillor Keith Linnecor added:

Councillor Keth Linnecor added:
"You should have the opportunity to
use a public service."
Andrew Thrupp, from Transport
for West Midlands, said: "Toilet turnstiles are not a money-making scheme. It is improving customer experience, reducing anti-social behaviour and maintaining the high standards."

Deeply Dippy about skeleton on tour



The diplodocus skeleton which will be on display at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

A FORTHCOMING dinosaur exhibition at a museum is proving hugely

popular with a big demand for tickets.
Dippy the Dinosaur, the famous 70
foot plaster cast replica of a Diplodocus skeleton will be at Birmingham's
Museum and Art Gallery from May 26
to September 9. It's free to see Dippy
but museum bosses expect it to be very
busy so visitors can only get in with a busy so visitors can only get in with a timed ticket.

Dippy had been on display at the

Natural History Museum in London since 1979, but was replaced with the

real skeleton of a blue whale. Lucky people can also Dine with Dippy at a shared dinner party at Gas Hall in Birmingham on June 7 and 14.

A museum spokesman said: "You will need to have a ticket booked to be able to see the exhibition. Weekends have booked up very quickly as they have been most popular. Not all dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years.

One group survived and evolved into the birds we know today."
Tables of 10 are available for £700 per table, with the price including arrival drinks, canapés, three courses, tea and coffee, half bottle of wine per person, unlimited mineral water, table decoration and a Dippy-themed gift.

decoration and a Dippy-themed gift.
The Diplodocus lived in what's now
North America at the end of the Jurassic period. There were several species. Visit nhm.ac.uk to find out more.

Lease proposal is key part of heritage bid

AN HISTORIC Black Country house dating back over a century could be leased out as part of a £1.5 million re-

vamp to a park, under proposals.

Tintern House in Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, will be leased out to the Emily Jordan Foundation, under plans being considered by Dudley Council this week.

A decision will be made by the council's Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee.

ment Committee.

Councillor David Sparks, who is chairman of Stevens Park Friends Group, said: "We are in the process of finalising a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funds to refurbish the house and park. This is part of the process. With the council the foundation from Kidderminster and the friends of the park of Quarry Bank Park will be putting forward a final bid later in the year.

"Tintern House will be used by the

"Tintern House will be used by the council, the foundation and the com-munity. This is a fantastic asset to the park and Quarry Bank. It is one of the oldest buildings in Quarry Bank and certainly in the area," he added. "The park was opened in the 1920s and the building was there before then."

The house will be leased out as part of the Stevens Park, Quarry Bank Restoration Project. Campaigners are lining up a bid to the HLF in August.

Push the Boat Out and try sailing

SAILORS can learn skills on the water in May when the Royal Yachting Association's Push the Boat Out scheme will allow novices to try sailing and windsurfing for free Events will be held at Himley Hall Sailing Club, Sandwell Valley Sailing Club, Dudley Sailing Club, and South Staffordships Sailing Club, and South Staffordships Sailing Club, fordshire Sailing Club

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New shipyard musical has Sting in its tail



A scene from Sting's new musical The Last Ship, which is docked in Birmingham this week

HOW intimidating must it be for an actor or actress to have to perform in front of the show's creator – particularly if he happens to be international superstar and music legend Sting.

But how proud must the singer be when an auditorium of people leap to their feet for a richly-deserved standing ovation as the curtain falls on his

creation.

Sting attended the opening night of the show in Birmingham on Monday, joined by reggae singer Shaggy, who he has collaborated with on a new album.

Judging by the smile on his face as he joined the cast on stage at the New

Alexandra Theatre, Sting was bursting

THE LAST SHIP, **NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE**

with pride. The Last Ship is an incredibly powerful show. He has described The Last Ship as very personal and a repayment of 'an emotional debt' to the home town he abandoned at the age of 18 but he now credits as making him what he is today.

The musical is set in the dying years of the shipping industry in a Tyneside town and sees the return of sailor as a young man refusing to sacrifice

himself to the working life mapped out for him. Gideon, played by Rich-ard Fleeshman, returns in the hope of rekindling romance with childhood sweetheart Meg. He returns in troubled times as the shipyard workers, led by Jackie White (Joe McGann), battle for their livelihoods

As might be expected, the song list is exciting and creative. Many numbers are upbeat, rousing and foot-stomping anthems. There are also some beautiful ballads such as the emotional When We Dance and the title song, The Last Ship, is particularly poignant. Runs at the Alex until Saturday.

ıntil Saturday. **DIANE DAVIES**



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Nothing will be held back and we will not be undersold by anyone! First come, first served... you will not be disappointed! We will open to the general public on Friday 27th April at 10am.

William Cole - WILLIAM & SONS

See Next Weeks Newspaper For

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Interior design on a salesroom shoestring

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



WE'RE always saying that it can cost a good deal less to furnish a home with vintage pieces than with shiney new contemporary ones - and it seems our sale-goers are in agreement!

One bidder at this month's auction bought a

beautiful chair and sofa, both in excellent condition and of good quality, for just £170 and was delighted as she had a limited budget and had been rather de-pressed at the cost of similar

new items. It really isn't that difficult to comprehend, all you have to do is compare prices to see that 'shopping' in the saleroom can yield some real bargains.



bargains.

And you don't have to slavishly follow any 'set patterns' in terms of interior design, mix and match styles and colours to create a unique and personal look.

There really are some amazing vintage pieces of furniture being sold for very reasonable prices just now.

Armchairs, sofas, tables, bookcases, wardrobes – you

name it and you can usually buy it at auction for a good deal less than you would pay for something similar in

dean less than you would pay for something similar in a large retail outlet.

Of course, some vintage items will show signs of a little wear and tear but this shouldn't deter you and if you buy something in need of restoration then it won't be much of an issue – get some expert advice if you





outside the furniture box and be creative, set yourself a budget, make up a wish-list and head off to a saleroom viewing day!

Check for condition before you decide to

bid - and size, remember modern homes tend to have on - and size, remember modern nomes tend to have relatively small doorways - and be pleasantly surprised at the bargains you acquire! * The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom,

Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, June 5, from

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

* Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
* Video previews of the sale are now available on our website, www.perryandphillips.co.uk.

Regrets over trades as gold's popularity returns



Gold is now back in vogue

DID you take your unworn gold jewellery to the high street gold shop a few years ago? Silver coloured metals were the trend and

the unpopular traditional yellow gold "worth it's weight" and we traded it in in our thou-

Whatever we were saving for helped along by the price of this precious metal and hordes of retailers opened to help us sell it.

of retailers opened to help us sell it.
For many years now silver coloured metals have been a popular choice for jewellery, more wedding and engagement rings in silver, white gold, platinum, titanium and steel at the expense of the warm coloured metal our ancestors preferred.

Gold is available in varying colours by mixing other metals with 24 carat gold. White gold is mixed with palladium or silver, adding copper creates a soft pink but blue, purple and black can be created by adding patinas or oxides.

24 carat is pure gold with no other metals. Lower carat contains less gold – 18 carat gold contains 75 per cent pure gold and 25 per cent other metals, often copper or silver. For example, 9 carat yellow gold has 37.5 per cent **STYLE FOCUS**



pure gold, 42.5 per cent silver and 20 per cent

copper.

Gold has emotional, cultural and financial value and is used in jewellery, technology and traded by banks and investors. It was the first metal known to us, it is easy to work with and neither corrodes nor tarnishes.

Ancient civilizations used it as decoration

and it has always been associated with wealth and royalty.

It has been accepted as money all over the

world, the first coins being produced as early as 700BC.

as 700BC.

Did you know? It is rarer to find a oneounce nugget of gold than a 5 carat diamond.
One ounce of gold can be stretched to a length
of 50 miles or hammered into a nine metre square sheet and at least half of all mined gold goes to produce jewellery.

Gold nanoparticles are used in home preg-

nancy test kits to ensure accurate results and every smartphone contains gold to help keep your data safely stored.

In the last couple of years rose gold has been the newest jewellery trend being used as a popular colour on everything from nail varnish to phone covers, I could see though the way preferences were changing and how we would soon see a re-emergence of tradi-

we would soon see a re-emergence of tradi-tional gold.

I have just watched the new Pandora ad-vert on the television and the glossy adver-tising pages in the magazines are awash with the soft warm tones of traditional yellow gold. I've already heard friends commenting on their regret of selling the family jewellery because it was no lorger a popular style or

because it was no longer a popular style or colour and the money went towards the trendiest of scatter cushions for the newly decorated bedroom.

Hopefully we have learned from our mistakes!

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Buff or bluff? How to get the best from a bottle



Cork or screwtop - does it matter?

WE may be a nation of wine drinkers, but we don't always know how to get the best out of a bottle.

Whether we're at home or away, the ritual of opening a bottle is as much about having a good time as it is about

But sometimes, there can be a nagging thought in the back of our minds. Is this wine ready to drink? Am I serving it in the right glass? Do I know where it's from?

So, to enhance your wine pleasure and answer any pressing questions from the grapevine, here are a few that crop up time

grapevine, nere are a rew that crop up time and time again...

1. How can I buy a bottle of wine without feeling intimidated?

We've all felt the fear... walking into a wine shop and not quite knowing where to begin. For starters, buying wine should be a happy experience, so make sure you choose a good wine show (not too stuffy not to a happy experience, so make sure you choose a good wine shop (not too stuffy, not too large and impersonal) where the staff are approachable, knowledgeable and hold regular wine tastings. Otherwise, you can get to grips with the wine world by buying online, or joining a wine club.

2. Sureav can or conk?

2. Screw cap or cork?
Firstly, there's nothing wrong with a

By Sam Wylie-Harris

screw cap. They've shed their shady past of being associated with cheaper wines and keep wine fresh and reliable every time. Winemakers, especially in New Zealand and Australia, favour them.

Corks are susceptible to cork taint. How-

ever, many winemakers believe they're essential for ageing, because full-bodied wines benefit from a little oxygen.

3. How do I taste wine like a pro?
Look, swirl, smell, sip. Sounds easy enough. Pour the wine, tilt the glass and note the colour and clarity of the wine. Swirl the glass to release the aromas and think about the fruits at the fore, which

could be citrus or tropical in a white, or bright cherry and strawberry fruit in a red. Take a sip, taste the wine and think about the texture and length. Did you like it? Did it leave you looking forward to the next sip (or glass)? Make a mental note and the max sip (or glass)?

the more you taste, the more you'll learn.

4. Does vintage matter and which one should I buy?

one should I buy?

Generally speaking, the current vintage for white wine represents grapes that were harvested one to three years ago, depending on the style of wine. For red wines, the current vintage is usually from one to four

vears ago. When it comes to fine wines such years ago. When it comes to nne wines such as Bordeaux, a good vintage will be reflected in the price and there may be several vintages (check the year to see if it's ready to drink) available at any one time.

5. How can I understand a wine

label?

New World producers (from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, USA) don't shy away from putting their name and grape variety on the label, which indicates the style of the wine. So if you're a pinotphile (lover of pinot noir), you can easily hunt down a Chilean, Californian or Kiwi pinot. However, Old World wines (from Europe) go by region or village, which can be very confusing if you don't know your Sancerre (sauvignon blanc), from your

your Sancerre (sauvignon blanc), from your Chablis (chardonnay).

6. Which glass should I choose?

Most wine critics prefer a larger glass, so a generous red wine vessel is best for whites and reds. For champagne or sparkling wine, a glass with a larger rim diameter will enable the aromas to be released, which doesn't happen with a traditional, narrow flute.

7. When should a wine be decanted?

Usually a wine is decanted when it needs

Usually, a wine is decanted when it needs to be separated from the sediment, which is generally only present in older red wines – say 10 years plus.

Everything and more as rock gets jitters

Everything Everything, O2 Academy, Birmingham EVERYTHING Everything were every inch a band at the peak of their powers when their snowed-off March gig finally took place in the hot and heaving

in the hot and heaving Brum venue.
First up, it was good to see support band Pumarosa back in action. The dancerock outfit from London give off excellent festival vibes and singer Isabel Munoz-Newsome returning vibes and singer Isabel Mu-noz-Newsome, returning after a serious illness, was in fine form whirling and gyrating her way through the epic Priestess. EE have won a loyal fol-lowing over four albums for their distinctive style of alternative rock a liftery

for their distinctive style of alternative rock, a jittery, skittering sound. If you haven't heard them, try to imagine a blend of Talk-ing Heads, XTC and Muse, that's in the ballpark. From opening song Fever Dream – title track of the latest album – to encores White Whale, Distant Past and No Reptiles, orange trenchocat-clad singer Jona-

trenchcoat-clad singer Jona-than Higgs commanded the stage. His quicksilver vocals go from tenor to helium go from tenor to helium falsetto to ultra-rapid rap, often within just a couple of lines of lyric.

Those oblique lyrics often

reflect an unease with what reflect an unease with what society has become, maybe reflected by the young au-dience which at one point began chanting the name of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

LEON BURAKOWSKI



N-ice one Ray, good to see you back as champ

Dancing on Ice Tour, Arena, Birmingham IT'S back – and oh how I have missed it. And the chance at last to see Torvill and

And the chance at last to see Torvill and Dean dancing again.

In the TV run we were only treated to one display by the golden couple. Something to do with insurance, I believe, but this time, by popular demand, they took to the ice.

I have always loved the TV series – I must admit I used to ban everyone from the living room on Sundays when it was on so I could give it my full attention – but the return this year left me a bit disappointed. It just did not seem to have the same impact.

But the tour, well, I came away aghast as usual but only after the second half – I will explain later. This time Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean were in the role of judges along with guest judge Denise Van Outen. In addition to their scores the audience vote from their mobiles for their favourite.

Birmingham was the last spot for the tour

Birmingham was the last spot for the tour and surprisingly there were a lot of empty

seats for the first of three nights. In the first half the celebrities performed, with Cheryl Baker looking as shaky as ever. But the current TV champ Jake Quickenden was superb and the singer even treated us to a song in the second half.

Song in the second hair.

Unfortunately for him, but not for the audience, previous champion and champion of champions Ray Quinn was in the line-up and how do you follow that? After the audience vote it came down to Ray and Jake and in the Bolero dance-off. Ray picked up the trophy. The rest of the stars were Donna Air. Max Evans and Alex Beresford.

I was left a bit flat after the first half but things definitely looked up as the profes-sional routines left the audience awestruck. SUE ATTWATER



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Big choice in quality roses to choose from

SENSUOUS roses confirm the presence of early summer.

The variation in fragrance and the brilliance of their blooms create a magical atmosphere in

Roses contribute scent, form and colour and can eas-

Roses controlue scent, form and conour and can easily be incorporated into any garden scheme.

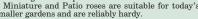
English shrub rose is a comparatively recent introduction and includes many which have rapidly established themselves as firm favourites and are happily,

lished themselves as firm favourites and are happily, widely grown.

Old shrub roses Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia and Moss are the roses of history, the forerunners of today's garden shrub roses. Richly scented, magnificent blooms with lax growth, giving the garden an air of

maturity.
Modern Bush Roses: For

sheer brilliance of bloom, for innovative colour and for



sneer orlinance of broom, for innovative colour and for massed display, the modern bush rose will satisfy all such demands and more besides. Included in this group are the Hybrid Teas, the most popular of all garden roses, multi-flowered Floribundas, and an extensive range of miniature and Patio roses, many ideal for small gardens or pots.

Miniature and Patio roses are suitable for today's smaller gardens and are reliably hardy.

Climbing and Rambler Roses: Cascading from mature trees, draping arches and pergolas, or clothing ancient walls, even covering an unsightly shed, Climbing and Rambling roses may be put to endless use. Combine them with a complementary clematis for an eye-catching display of colour and interest over the summer period. Choose from soft, pastel shades, vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows or cooling creams vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows or cooling creams and whites.

My top roses are:

ENGLISH SHRUB ROSE

Rosa Jaques Cartier (Portland Shrub Rose) – A re-liable shrub rose going back 150 years, named after a famous French sailor and explorer of the 16th century. Fully double, deep rose-pink flowers with a strong, sweet scent. It produces flowers throughout the summer and autumn and blooms stand up well to rain.

OLD SHRUB ROSE



MODERN BUSH ROSE
Rosa "Just Joey" (pictured left) is a repeat flowering, very fragrant Hybrid
Tea rose, Ruffled blooms of a coppery orange are produced throughout the summer and autumn. A rose with good dis-

PATIO ROSE

Rosa "Raspberry Royal" a hardy patio floribunda rose that produces masses of weather resistant, richred flowers. Compact and lightly fragrant, ideal for small spaces. Choose an open sunny position at the front of a border or in a patio container.

RAMBLER

Rosa "Albertine" is a large and vigorous rambling rose, perfect for training over an arch or pergola or a large sunny expanse of wall. A reliable variety of fragrant, light salmon-pink flowers in June and July. The strongly scented flowers make good cut flowers.

CLIMBER

Rosa "Laura Ford", a compact climber bearing clusters of small, loosely double flowers, bright yellow at first, becoming lemon-yellow, edged pink from early summer through until late autumn. Repeat flowering, slightly fragrant and excellent disease resistance. The flowers are borne over the height of the plant and repeat flower well followed by small orange hips.

Rosa "Golden Showers" (pictured top) is a yellow, repeat-flowering climbing rose with large, sweetly fragrant, semi-double, golden-yellow blooms fading to lemon and eventually cream. Flowering through the summer and into autumn, Rosa "Golden Showers" is a compact climber, ideal for smaller spaces; grows in sun or light shade.

Love Plants is offering 10 per cent off all roses dur-

sun or light shade.

Love Plants is offering 10 per cent off all roses dur-

ing April.

Tim Robinson is manager of Love Plants at Salop Leisure in Shrewsbury

Confusion over recycling rules 'needs sorting out'



Confusing recycling rules need binning, according to green energy expert Ron Fox

CONFUSION over recycling rules needs sorting out as up to 400,000 tonnes of green rubbish is sent wrongly to land-fill every year, according to energy expert Ron Fox.

In a survey commissioned by the British Science Association 2,000 people were asked about the guidelines and no expert full marks one got full marks.

"Householders need more information about what can be recycled and what can't as the regulations keep changing," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Sci-

said Mir Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

"In some parts of the country waste companies sort out the items, allowing it all to be thrown into a single bin. Perhaps that is a solution or that councils should sort the materials out at their depots."

The most common mistake made by 66 per cent of people was not putting kitchen foil and foil trays in the recycle bin. But it can as long as it is cleaned.

Also 58 per cent of those questioned didn't realise that empty deodorant, aerosols and hairspray containers could

There were problems with items which residents thought ould be recycled but couldn't. These included hand soap pump dispensers with 44 per cent believing wrongly that the top can could be used again, 33 per cent thinking that kitchen roll is recyclable and 24 per cent making the same error with coffee cups which have a plastic lining.

clean food containers.

Meanwhile, the charity Wrap pointed out that under new rules items which cannot be recycled are black plastic bot-tles – because sorting equipment cannot detect the colour black – wine glasses, greeting cards with glitter on, nail

varnish bottles, crisp packets, nappies and window glass. But the guidelines said that telephone directories, enve lopes with windows, egg boxes and takeaway trays could now be recycled. Also green items should not be put in black sacks as they are all sent automatically to landfill sites. Sometimes householders have been found trying to recycle the most unusual items, including a dead pet, a collection of glass eyes and a blow-up doll.

lection of glass eyes and a blow-up doll.

"The serious point is that this confusion may cause recycling levels to fall which won't help reduce our carbon footprint," said Mr Fox.

A worrying statistic is that a survey by Serco's Environmental Services business research partner, Future Thinking, found that three in 10 people didn't recycle as much as

they could because of the confusing rules and this rose to 57 per cent in the 16 to 34 year range.

"Interestingly," added Mr Fox, "82 per cent of 55 to 74 year olds and 88 per cent of over 75s reuse all they can. The best area is Wales where 75 per cent say they recycle everything possible with the West Midlands in second place with 40 years at 18.

Shedding light on dangers of the 'enemy within'

Report by Hannah Stephenson

WHEN we think of invasive plants, alarm bells might ring at the mention of Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed - but can the same be said about buddleia, bamboo or montbretia?

Yet these – and other – common plants will be coming under the spotlight at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show in a garden of invasive plants, created to highlight non-native species that "escape" from gardens up and down the UK and the damage they can do once let loose.

do once let Ioose.

To raise awareness of the issue, experts from the Property Care Association's Invasive Weed Control Group are developing the "Enemy Within" garden at the show, which will run from May 22 to 26, to show 14 of the good, the bad and the ugly invasive on native plants gurrantly thyring in gar

on-native plants currently thriving in gar-dens across the country.

These include montbretia, false Virginia creeper, Japanese rose, three-cornered gar-lic, the garden lupin, buddleia and cotone-

lic, the garden lupin, same aster.

Professor Max Wade, chairman of the PCA's Invasive Weed Control Group, says:
"We know from studies of today's invasive weeds that it can take decades to become a national problem after escaping from garden."

dens.
"For instance, giant rhubarb was first seen outside of gardens in 1908 and it wasn't until about the turn of the century that it became invasive, while Japanese knotweed took from 1886 to about 1940 to

knotweed took from 1886 to about 1940 to start its ascendancy.

"Based on this, we should consider that not only is tomorrow's Japanese knotweed growing in gardens today, but we are busy planting the follow-on generation to perpetuate the process."

Steve Hodgson, chief executive of the PCA, says: "We don't have to allow invasive plants to become such a big problem if we act responsibly. Non-natives which find niches in habitats, tend to grow without competition.

niches in habitats, tend to grow without competition.

"If we are responsible about how we manage what we've got, we should be able to avoid the problems we see with things like Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and lengthred."

knotweed."
Other plants that have the same potential

BAMBOO

There's been a lot of bamboo planted over the years, thanks to its popularity in gardening makeover shows and horticultural fashion generally, says Hodgson. If they are left unchecked they can be just as damaging as anything else. "Watch it, manage it and if in doubt, remove it," he advises. "There are well-actablished professional organisations." well-established professional organisations that can help if you can't do it yourself."



Buddleia - or the "butterfly bush" - can cause serious structural damage to buildings



Bamboo is popular but should not be left unchecked

BUDDLEIA

"We have a massive problem with the butterfly bush," he says. "It's a real nightmare. Anecdotally, it causes more structural damage to buildings than anything else. The fact is, if it is left close to buildings, the buddleia roots are so strong they will pull the masonry apart. It starts from a seed." Plant a buddleia near to your home at your peril. If you see any seedlings which have taken next to the house, pull them out.

MONTBRETIA

"Leave it alone it will spread like wildfire. In most domestic gardens it will out-compete the other plants in the flowerbed – and when you get it into a wild environment, it does exactly the same thing." You can dig

the corms of montbretia up to keep it in check – but don't dispose of it on your compost heap because it's likely that wherever you spread the compost, the montbretia will follow. One solution is to burn the corms.

AQUATIC PLANTS

Pennywort and water fern are problematic, he says. Reports of the invasive plant floating pennywort in rivers and lakes have reached a record high, officials are warning. "They often arrive because somebody's cleaned out a fish tank. They were imported and used in aquariums and fish tanks and accase he have the reached the sixty and always the says into a some place the says the says and the says into a some place the says the says and says are says and says and says are says and says are says and says are says and says are says as says and says are says and says are says as says and says are says as says and says are says as says as says and says are says as says and says are says as people clean them out and chuck them into the nearest pond, and before you know it, they are filling up rivers and ponds. They do a huge amount of environmental damage."

Advice - Steve Hodgson of the PCA

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This is a massive problem, because if you disturb it and then leave fragments under new structures, it will grow back through an extension or a patio or into a conservatory. The RHS has just extended its advice to include the role of professional firms to eradicate knotweed, warning that DIY attembts at treatment or removal may not be tempts at treatment or removal may not be successful.

For keen gardeners who wish to attempt to treat or dig out Japanese knotweed themselves, the RHS warns the plant is very deeply penetrating and success is not assured. Also, it is classed as "controlled waste" and therefore requires careful disposal at licensed landfill sites.

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by April De Angelis

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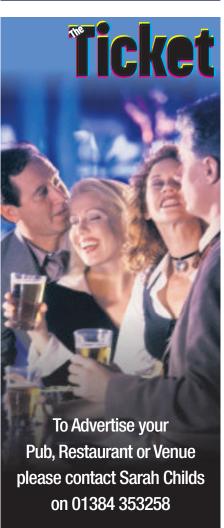
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Phil's got nowhere Hyde in new role

twisted, nerve-jangling tale of horror will play out at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Phil Daniels stars in the gothic thriller Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

The age-old tale by Robert Louis Stevenson focuses on one of the kind and gifted Dr Jekyll's most audacious experiments, in which he tries to separate good from evil.

Inadvertently, Jekyll unleashes an alternative personality of pure evil . . . the mysterious Mr Hyde. And as the sinister figure starts causing terror and havoc in foggy London, Jekyll must race to find a cure for his monstrous alter-ego before it takes over for good.

The new production will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from May 1-5 and stars Phil Daniels whose extensive and varied credits include Jimmy Cooper in Quadrophenia, Richards in Scum and Kevin Wicks in EastEnders.
Phil has worked with the RSC and NT and appeared on

tage in productions as diverse as Les Miserables and This House

We caught up with the star to find out what made him

take on the role of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. How would you describe this version on the classic

story?

"It's set in Victorian London so it's traditional in that respect and it's quite close in many respects to the book as well, but it delves into Dr Jekyll's personal life a bit more. There are more female characters in it, like his sister, and it explores how his father – who started the experiment which Dr Jekyll continues – was never very nice to him in his lifetime.

What's your take on the dual characters of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hvde?

"When I first spoke to Jenny King [the show's producer and creator of the Touring Consortium Theatre Company] about Jekyll and Hyde I was interested in the way sometimes when people have a drink they become different people. You know, they can be as good as gold one day but as soon as they've had a drink

they become snarling animals. I was interested in that and approaching the characters from a point of view that, even though there is a liquid that Jekyll does take that turns him into this monster or which exposes the darker side of his personality, that darker side is in him already. He just releases it.

What are the challenges for you as an

"It's about making it as real as possible that there are two aspects of his personality and not just a crazed animal that's come out of nowhere. It's about finding out why Dr Jekyll is also Edward Hvde. What I don't want to do is make Hyde just evil, I want the audience to make their own mind up about who's the worst out of the two of them or who's the best, which facets of each character they like or appreciate and which facets they don't. That's the challenge – to make them both credible people. One might be a villain and one might commit a murder but

personality that he does it." Why do you feel theatre audiences love a good stage thriller?

it's because of the other one's

"If there's a story that captures your imagination and has a beginning, a something might happen



always caught people's imaginations. I don't know how many pages the book is; I think it's only about 60 pages long, it's very slim. It's a tiny book that has lead to an industry of people making films, musicals, plays, other books, writing about it and analysing it. It's very popular and understandably so." What twists does David Edgar's play spin n the well-known story? "He gets at the heart of the story. He tries to give a reason for Jekyll and Hyde's breakdown, where Jekyll's father gives him no credit but he gives the daughter credit instead. There's a secret in the past between the sister and the brother that's quite violent so it's not just Hyde who's the violent one. there's something violent in Jekyll as well. That's what's interesting about Edgar's script; he gets deep into that. Plus with characters like Lanyon and Utterson there's a debate going on within the play about Victorian England,

how the poor are being treated and whether it's

because of society that

because of the binary system of

people do bad things or

our personalities."

and Hyde story is just one of those stories that's

Have you done any research into the Victorian era? If so, what have you been most interested to learn?

"It's interesting that medicine was at a stage where they started to think anything was possible. Great leaps forward were happening and to be involved in that as a doctor would have been something someone like Dr Jekyll would have relished. I think part of his motivation for continuing these experiments and to write papers about them is to gain notoriety in medical circles. Maybe he's just an ordinary doctor who is trying to push his way into being famous.

You've had such a long and varied career. Which roles are you most recognised for?

"Mainly it's because of Quadrophenia, which has become a cult film over the years. I get a little bit of EastEnders but not so much. [Laughs] It depends on which supermarket you go to; it happens more in Lidl than Marks and Spencer's but there you go."

With a role like this do you enjoy disappearing into a character?

"It's quite a leap for me because I'm playing Jekyll as a posh Edinburgh doctor and Hyde as a Glaswegian. I'm burying myself in all that, but it's enjoyable getting deep into characters. You have to put the work in. [Laughs] Although I don't get deep enough to go around murdering people, of course.

Are you more Jekyll or Hyde? Or a bit of both?

"I think there's a little bit of me in both of them. There's a bit of snobbery in Hyde and a bit of swagger in Jekyll but also a bit of swagger in Hyde too. It's the same with all of us I suppose."

And finally, you'll play Wolverhampton Grand at the

start of May. Does it have any significance for you?
"All of Blur's road crew are from Wolverhampton and because of my association with the band hopefully some of those boys will come see the show.'
ANDY RICHARDSON

• For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Singer-songwriter Isaac is not Terrified any more

titled debut album last week and will be playing songs from it at Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday).

The singer-songwriter's mellow music has caused a stir and attracted growing attention with the singles Terrified and The Death of You & I.

With a voice apparently mature beyond his years, the 23-year-old former University of East Anglia creative writing student has been mentioned in the same breath as several greats. Having uploaded a demo version of his breakthrough song Last Words, he found it daunting to find his name placed alongside such music heroes as Jeff Buckley and Bob Dylan.

"I was like 'I'm no good! I can't write a song! You've

got me wrong! It's difficult with that gaze because they want integrity, they want truth, the want honesty - but they also want a big old smash hit," he savs

"At that time of writing songs, it was purely to try and do justice to the things I was feeling."

Then he took time out of the spotlight to explore new musical territory and learn to interact with a full band. The result is his debut album. He says: "I feel, at this point, really ready to put out the record, ready to live by it and ready to learn from it. Then I'll go forward.'

The pick of the gigs also includes: Saturday, Bolan boogie with T Rextasy, Bilston's Robin 2; Monday, Barenaked Ladies back with their 15th album Fake Nudes, O2 Institute; Wednesday, hard rockers Of Mice & Men. O2 Institute.

Quality Asian food served in a magnificent setting

Commercial feature

THE Bangla Lounge restaurant is in the heart of Halesowen town centre opposite the church.
The restaurant has been serving

quality pan Asian food for the last 14

Atmosphere and decor

As you enter you are welcomed by magnificent setting and a delightful marriage of classic and luxurious modern - a wonderful comfortable

The menu dishes

The menu offers a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes from red hot Goa to cool Kashmir. On the new 2018 menu, new dishes include South Indian garlic lamb or chicken Dhabba Murgh, as well as exclusive house specials Tamarind king prawns, chicken makhani and home- made lamb dish. There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and fish lovers including vegetable jhall, Roson Ki salmon, also any main dish from the menu using Quorn pieces

The ingredients

All food is made freshly cooked on order and the dishes have the warmth of homemade Indian cooking. The chefs take great care in selecting the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.



Healthy eating

At Bangla Lounge, healthy eating is high on the agenda if you prefer to have low calorie version of your favourite dishes prepared, they are able to specially prepare most dishes using less oil, no butter or ghee-less food colouring resulting in lighter

If you are planning a celebration, the restaurant's upstairs function room

can cater for up to 40 guests is ideal for work parties birthday celebrations anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service for free within a three-mile radius

To book a table call 01215857020 or email: info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk

The restaurant can be found at 67-69 High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BQ.

Express jazz from

JAZZ guitarist Remi Harris, whose celebrity fans and collaborators include Jamie Cullum, will be performing at the Pizza Express in Brindley Place, Birmingham, tomorrow night (Friday).

Remi, pictured, has more than 40 dates booked with his jazz and blues trio travelling more than 6,000 miles in three months

Remi's unique style draws inspiration from gypsy swing, blues, rock and world music. He has toured worldwide and performed on the Chris Evans Radio 2 breakfast show with Jamie Cullum, and has appeared at the Montreal Jazz Festival, the BBC Proms and on Radio 3. Jamie Cullum, who hosts his own jazz show on Radio 2. said, "Remi Harris is an incredible guitarist, I'm absolutely blown away by his talent."

Herefordshire-born Remi. 30 said, "I'm really looking forward to performing in Birmingham again, it has a rich history of great music and I always enjoy playing there. We've been working on new material and we're excited to be on the road again.

From the day he was born his mother, of French origin, chose the name Remi, inspired by the musical scale Do-Re-Mi. He called his first album 'Ninick' in memory of his mother.

Primarily self taught, Remi started playing at the age of seven, initially inspired by rock and blues guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Peter Green and Jimmy Page. In his late teens he developed an interest in jazz music, in particular artists such as Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery.

To book tickets contact www. remiharris.co.uk or call Pizza Express on 0207 4394962 and ask for the Birmingham show



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MUCH AS YOU LIKE

OVER 2







Magnum marking 50 years in music

British hard rock legends Magnum will perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday as part of their Eternity World Tour. The with the release of their Road to Eternity. Fronted by founders Bob Catley and Tony Clarkin, pictured, Magnum have become stalwarts of the classic rock scene n the UK over 50 years. The current five-piece line-up includes Rick Benton (keyboards), bassist Al Barrow and drummer Lee Morris.

Drag, disco, dance, comedy and science

Three men from West Bromwich Operatic Society will be putting on the flamboyant make up and outrageous frocks when the company brings disco hit-packed musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Based on the hit movie, the stage show follows the adventures of a troupe of drag queens across the Aussie Outback in an often hilarious and sometimes poignant road trip.

Strictly Come Dancing's Aljaz and Janette will be Remember Fred (Astaire) at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday. That's the same night comedian Robin Ince, who co-presents BBC Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage science chat with Professor Brian Cox, brings his Pragmatic Insanity solo show to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

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The Queen's Birthday (BBC1, 8pm)

A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Craig David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News. 1.15 The London Marathon: My Reason to Run. 1.45 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of two first-round matches involving Kyren Wilson and Ronnie O'Sullivan. 4.35 BBC News. 4.45 Regional Programme. 4.55 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United V Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm). 7.15 Pointless Celebrities. Diane

V Tottennam Hotspur (Kick-on 5, 15pm).
7.15 Pointless Celebrities. Diane
Louise Jordan, the Rev Richard
Coles, Nancy Dell'Olio, Matt
Barbet, Sharron Davies, Mark
Foster, Gyles Brandreth and Susan
Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

8.00 The Queen's Birthday Party. A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Crain David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. (R)

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National

10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights of Saturday's two Premier League fixtures – Watford v Crystal Palace, and West Bromwich

Palace, and West Bromwich
Albion v Liverpool.

11.00 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final
Highlights. Dan Walker presents
highlights of Manchester United v
Tottenham Hotspur in the opening
semi-final of this year's
competition at Wembley Stadium.

seni-mial or unity year's competition at Wembley Stadium.

11.20 The Button. Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)

11.50 Film: The Recruit. (2003) A hacker is recruited into the CIA and is given a top-secret assignment to root out a mole within the agency's training programme. Thriller, starring AI Pacino and Colin Farrell.

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) 6.40 Naomis Nightmares of Nature. (R) 7.10 he Pets Factor. 7.30 he Dengineers. 8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. 8.30 Beyond Bionic. 9.00 Robot Wars. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker. The World Championship. 12.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 12.30 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) 12.30 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) 1.30 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) 3.30 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 6.00 Antiques Road Trip. In Liverpool, in Liverpoo

Final Score. 5.15 Money for Nothing. (R)
6.00 Antiques Road Trip. In Liverpool,
Natasha Raskin Sharp hopes for a
big hit with a Sgt Pepper-style
military jacket, while Charles
Hanson finds two maritimethemed stained glass panels. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World
Championship. Jason Mohammad
presents coverage of the
concluding session on the opening
day of the ranking bournament at
the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield,
where the first-round match
involving Mark Selby is scher with
involving Mark Selby is Spein the
honour of being involved in the first
fixture of the tournament in his role
as religning champion, and the as reigning champion, and the world number one is aiming to win the title for the fourth time in the last five years.

8.00 The Forest. An engineering team is called out to repair a 6-ton logging machine, while the owner of Balloch O'Dee campsite prepares to stage a comedy night. Mark Bonnar narrates.

8.30 Dad's Army. The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic manmanagement brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)

patatoon. (R)

9.00 Imagine - Habaneros: You Say
You Want a Revolution? Part
One. Part one of two.
Documentary exploring the lives of
Hawana residents in the wake of
Raul Castro stepping down as
president of Cuba, leaving the
country facing an uncertain future.

10.00 Film: Testament of Youth. (2014)
A young woman gives up her place
at Oxford University to be a nurse
during the First World War. Period
drama, starring Alicia Vikander.

12.00 Snooker: The World
Championship 12.50 Snooker: World
Championship 12.50 Snooker: World
Championship Extra. 2.50 Civilisations.
(R) 3.50 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Super 4 (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.30 Teen Titans Go! (R) 7.45 Adventure Time. (R) 8.00 Thunderbrits Are Go. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday. 9.25 James Martin Saturday Morring. 11.20 Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) 1.20 ITV News. Weather. 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Including the Coral Scottish Grand National Handicap Stepple Chase at 4.05. 4.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.00 ITV News: Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. A special celebrity edition of the obstacle-course challenge, with contestant including former Olympic athlete Katharine Merry and Kenzie from Blazin' Squad testing their strength, speed and courage. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task—scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama. Hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.

Crins Kamara.
7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.
Madcap panel show presented by
the comedian, who presides over
two teams nominally tasked with
saving planet Earth from any
potential alien invasion.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search. which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams and win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance.

9.20 The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Top Gun, with a little help from Keith Allen, Sarah Parish and Marc Warren.

9.50 ITV News: Weather.

9.50 ITV News; Weather.

10.10 Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) A society widow enlists in the army in the hope of finding a new direction, but comes into conflict with her tough commanding officer. Comedy, with Goldie Hawn.

12.15 Change Your Tune. (R) 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1: The Grid. 6.40 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.36 The King of Queens. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.26 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Frasier. (R) 9.55 Frasier. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 The Place in the Surv. Winter Sun. (R) 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.30 Location, Location Location. (R) 5.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man: Best
Builds. George Clarke chooses
four of his favourite church Journal Standard Chrosses of Church Conversions from the programme, featuring a couple who hoped their old fisherman's church in Devon would bring them together, and a young father whose single-minded dedication to restoring a medieval Welsh chapel almost fore his family apart. Plus, the restoration novices who risked financial ruin to transform a Cumbrian village church's iconic spire, and a couple from Newcastle who battled the elements to create a bohemian artistic retreat 400 miles away in the Outer Hebrides. (R) the Outer Hebrides. (R)

 The Uuter Heorness. (N)
 Britain's Most Historic Towns.
 Alice Roberts explores the Norman period of British history in Winchester. She attempts to storm a castle wearing chain mail and investigates the origins of modern to the control of the control suraery.

investigates the origins of modern surgery.

9.00 Film: Dirty Grandpa. (2016)
Premiers An uptight lawyer preparing to marry his boss's controlling daughter and secure a prestigious job is persuaded to drive his tun-loving grandfather to Horda. However, the old man is convinced his grandson is about to make a terrible mistake, and turns the road trip into a wildly hedonistic weekend in the hope of inspiring him to get more fun out of life. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Zac Efron.

11.00 Film: Colombiana. (2011) An orphan grows up to be an assassin while secretly plotting revenge on the gangsters who murdered her parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana and Cliff Curtis.

1.00 Ramsays' Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 1.50 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.00 Building the Dream. (R) 4.55 The Question Jury. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.25 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.15 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.15 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.15 Police Police Interceptors. (R) 1.15 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 5.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 21

5.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) 6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) High Court enforcement officers Paul. Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they brak into a home in Essex while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. Meanwhile, Stewart and lain receive more than just threast. lain receive more than just threats from the staff and owner of a taxi business, a car dealer has to choose between paying up or losing his showroom stars, and an Indian restaurant owner is in danger of losing his livelihood. (R)

7.00 The Yorkshire Vet Casebook Julian Norton needs to act fast to save a cow with heart failure, a beagle goes through a difficult birth and a hamster arrives for a simple procedure that ends up proving tricky.

Proving titesy.

8.00 The Dead Sea Treasure Map
Mystery. Cameras observe a team
of archaeologists following clues
from the Copper Scroll, a map that
is thought to lead to a treasure
haul estimated to be worth
\$3billion. (R)

8.55 Shew Weekend

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.
Colin Murray introduces highlights
from the weekend's games in the
Championship, including Bolton
Wanderers v Wolverhampton
Wedstern v V Cariff Of You Wanderers and Cardiff City v Nottingham Forest.

Nottingham Forest.

10.06 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Oldham Athletic and Portsmouth v Charlton Athletic.

10.30 World's Deadliest Weather:
Caught on Camera. Footage
capturing the destruction and
chaos caused by severe weathe
conditions, featuring first-hand
accounts from those who have survived such events. (R)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Yorkshire
Vet. (R) 4.00 Made in Yorkshire. (R)

DIGITAL

BBLF-our
7.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth
8.00 Wild Tales from the Village 9.00
Salamander: Blood Diamonds 10.35
Room 101 11.05 Plunder: Spike Milligan
11.35 Spike Milligan: Assorted 0 12.35
Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth 1.35
Wild Tales from the Village 2.35 Room
101 3.05 Plunder: Spike Milligan 3.35
Close

ITV2

11.25 Britain's Got More Talent 12.25
Minja Warrior UK 1.30 Film: Liar Liar
(1997) 2.30 FYI Daily 2.35 Film: Liar Liar
(1997) 3.15 Film: Yogi Bear (2010) 4.15
FYI Daily 4.20 Film: Yogi Bear (2010) 4.15
FYI Daily 4.20 Film: Yogi Bear (2010) 4.55 Film: Easper (1995) 5.55 FYI Daily 6.00 Film: Casper (1995) 7.00 Film: The Mummy (1999) 8.00 FYI Daily 8.05 Film: The Mummy (1999) 9.20 Britain's Got More Talent 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.10
Family Guy 12.35 American Dadl 1.30
The Cleveland Show 1.55 Pilebs 2.20
Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
2.45 Filesshopping 5.45 ITV2
Mightscreen Nightscreen

11.00 A Touch of Frost 3.20 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) 4.55 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Vera 1.05 On the Buses 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

1.50 Film: Bend of the River (1952) 2.50 FYI Daily 2.55 Film: Bend of the River FYI Daily 2.55 Film: Bend of the River (1952) 3.45 Film: Chisum (1970) 4.45 FYI Daily 4.50 Film: Chisum (1970) 8.05 FYI Daily 4.50 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 7.06 FYI Daily 7.10 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 9.00 Film: Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) 11.25 Film: Canak: High Voltage (2009) 12.25 FYI Daily 12.30 Film: Crank: High Voltage (2009) 13.00 Film: Crank: High Voltage (2009) 13.00 Film: Crank: High Voltage (2009) 13.00 Film: Crank: High Voltage (2009) 15.00 Film: Crank: High Voltag

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs 2.00 Brooklyn
Nine-Nine 2.30 Young Sheldon 3.00
Film: The Net (1995) 5.10 Rudel on 3.00
Film: The Net (1995) 5.10 Rudel on 3.00
Film: Sheldon 3.00
Film: Red 2 (2013) 11.10
Gogglebox 12.15 The Inbetweeners 1.25
Tattoo Fixers 2.30 Rude Tube 3.25
Gogglebox 4.20 How I Met Your Mother
5.05 Rude(ish) Tube

11.00 Support Your Local Sheriff! (1969) 1.00 Dante's Peak (1997) 3.05 The Book of Life (2014) 5.00 Shrek (2001) 6.45 Super 8 (2011) 9.00 Predestination (2014) 10.50 Sinister (2012) 1.00 Grave of the Fireflies (1988) 2.55 Close

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SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 22



The Woman in White (BBC1, 9pm)

Ben Hard

New series. Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher who has a startling encounter on Hampstead Heath with a woman who has escaped from a lunatic asylum. He later takes up a position as a drawing master in Cumbria, but as he falls in love with one of his pupils, he discovers a connection between her family and the strange woman's troubled past. With Charles Dance and Jessie Buckley.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 8.10 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. (R) 8.30 London Marathon. 2.00 BBC News; Weather. 2.15 Regional Programme. 3.30 Songs of Praise. 4.05 B.O.B.'s Big Preak. (R) 4.15 Film: Madagascar. (2005). Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. 5.35 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.

News. 5.50 Hegional Programme.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. The seven remaining artists are challenged to show off their waterscape painting skills during a visit to Loch Lomond. Firstly, they must paint a boat on the water during a particularly windy day. before creating a panoramic view of the entire lake. They also receive a masterclass on mixing colours before local members of the public choose a favourite to go through to next week's semi-final.

7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Norfolk to meet people who are keeping traditional English crafts alive. She visits a restored wind pump in Horsey, joins a group of reed cutters on the Norfolk resu cutters on the Norfolk Broads, and meets a man who has made it his mission to restore all of the county's ancient milestones. Finally, she meets a craftsman who makes cricket bats by hand and puts one of his creations to the test.

une test.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Castle Howard in Yorkshire, where items brought in to be valued include a rare jade Buddha and a collection of First World War aviation paintings.

The Woman in White. New series.

The Woman in White. New series.

Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher delving into the mysterious and troubled history of a woman who has escaped from an asylum.

10.20 Regional Programme

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark
Chapman introduces highlights of
Arsenal v West Ham United and
Stoke City v Burnley.

Stoke City v Burnley.

1.30 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final
Highlights. Reshmin Chowdhury
presents highlights of Chelsea v
Southampton in the second semifinal of this season's competition
at Wembley Stadium.

12.00 The Women's Football Show. 12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 6.35 Countryfile. (R) 7.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 8.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.15 MOTID2 Extra. 1.00 Gardeners: World. (R) 2.00 London Marathon. Concluding live coverage of the 38th staging of the annual event. 2.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The first-round matches involving Shaun Murphy and Ali Carter.

6.00 Nature's Biggest Beasts. The Nature's Biggest Beasts. The world's biggest beasts have always captured people's imagination. But while being big can have its advantages, it also comes with sizeable challenges. From the Komodo dragon, whose huge appetite means it must take on prey 10 times its weight, to the giraffe, whose long neck must control immense blood pressure, nature's biggest beasts must go to extraordinary lengths to thrive. extraordinary lengths to thrive. This film tells just some of these

7.00 London Marathon Highlights. JJ Chalmers presents action from the 38th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-

8.00 Britain's Biggest Warship. HMS Queen Elizabeth goes on Queen Elizabeth goes on dangerous sea trials for the first time in the North Sea, where every part of the vessel is put to the test and the first aircraft lands on the

9.00 My Year with the Tribe. Will makes his second trip to Indonesia and meets some other members of the Korowai tribe, only to find their lives are not as traditional as they initially appear.

10.25 That's the Way, A-Ha, A-Ha, Joe Lycett. A performance from the comedian's award-winning live

show, recorded at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End. 11.25 Snooker: The World

5 Snooker: The World
Championship. The evening
session on day two at the Crucible
Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the
conclusion of first-round matches
involving Kyren Wilson and Marco
Fu. Jason Mohammad presents.
Coacles World Chamisachia 12.15 Snooker: World Championship Extra. 2.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 3.15 Holby City. (R) 4.15 This Is BBC Two. **ITV**

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.45 Super 4. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.30 Teen Titans Gol (R) 7.45 Adventure Time. (R) 8.00 The Haunted Hathaways. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Zoe Ball on Sunday 9.25 Love Your Garden. (R) 11.00 Peston on Sunday 10.55 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 11.55 ITV New; Weather 1.205 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 2.25 Britain's Got More Talent. (R) 2.25 Britain's Grightest Family. (R) 3.00 The Queen's Green Planet. (R) 4.00 Change Your Tune. 5.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) 6.00 Harry Hill's Alien Eur Capsule.

Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R) ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.

Little Big Shots. New series.
Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a singing trio and a young dog

8 00 The Durrells The family plans a party to celebrate Gerry's birthday, but the occasion is invaded by a swarm of mosquitoes. Louisa worries when Spiros locks himself in a room to sing sad songs.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Ruby and Gabriel intervene in a dispute between two fishermen, and Lydia's former mentor asks for her help. Guest starring Sue Johnston (The Royle Family). Last in the

10 05 ITV News: Weather

10.10 TIV News; weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)

11.20 100 Year Old Driving School. A 91-year-old former teacher attempts to prove she is a good driver. Last in the series. (R)

driver. Last in the series. (R)

11.50 This Time Next Year. Davina

McCall meets a 45-year-old man

who wants to track down his longlost half-sister and a grandmother

who wants to learn to read. (R)

who wants to learn to read. (R) 12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Earthe Week. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.25 Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantass. with the voice of Dany NaViño Cartass. fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito
4.35 Location, Location, Location. (R)
5.35 Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding, but the chateau is nowhere near ready to receive the 200 guests they have invited and finding reliable, affordable workers is proving difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the most and the difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the moat and the installation of a new, eco-friendly sewage system, while Angel turns her attention to giving the rooms a distinctive decor. Last in the series. (R)

The Crystal Maze. Richard Avoade quides a team of people.

INB LTYSTAI MAZE. HICHARD
Ayoade guides a team of people
who met while doing jury service
together through the Aztec,
Medieval, Industrial and Future
zones of the Maze, tackling a range
of skill, mystery, physical and
mental challenges before the final
journey to the Crystal Dome.
Homeland Carrie is forced to

Journey to the Crystal Dome.

Homeland. Carrie is forced to
choose a side, Keane needs an ally
and Saul comes up with an idea.
Espionage drama, starring Claire
Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Elizabeth
Marvel and Linus Roache.

10.15 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own

solas. (7)

11.10 Film: Easy A. (2010) Misfit teenager Olive lies about her nonexistent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone and Penn Badgley.

Penn Badgley.
12.50 Film: Kahaani 2. (2016) Premiere.
Crime thriller, starring Vidya Balan.
3.00 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.25
Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) 3.50 Come Dine
Champion of Champions. A plumber, a
lettings agent and a local communications officer battle it out. (R) **4.45** Building the Dream. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Little Princess. 6.10 Wissper. (R) 6.20 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.30 Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) 6.40 Mohy. (R) 6.45 Simon. (R) 6.50 Simon. (R) 6.50 Simon. (R) 6.55 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.05 Pawa Patrol. (R) 7.15 Thomas & Friends. (R) 7.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.35 Oilly the Little White Van. (R) 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.85 Pawa Patrol. (R) 8.85 sami. (i) 7.39 Uily the Little White Van. (ft) 7.45 Diaze and the Monster Machines. (ft) 8.25 Paw Patrol. (ft) 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight. (ft) 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (ft) 8.55 Ben and Holly 5 Little Kingdom. (ft) 9.10 Shimmer and Shine. (ft) 9.20 Digby Dragon. (ft) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (ft) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (ft) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (ft) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (ft) 9.55 Penage Mutant Ninja Turfles. (ft) 10.36 Potoball on 5: The Championship. (ft) 11.30 Football on 5: Goal Russh. (ft) 12.00 Birtain's Greatest Bridges. (ft) 11.5 Police Interceptors. (ft) 2.15 Film: Dances with Wolves. (1990) Oscar-winning Western. (2001) Romantic Second World Ward Lama, with Ben Affleck and Kate War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

6.45 5 News Update

6.50 Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Diana to Meghan: Royal Wedding Secrets. A behind the scenes look at how previous royal weddings, to reveal how these lavish events are organised. Kiri Te Kanawa shares her memories of performing at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, while florists, dressmakers, tailors, ring-makers, security guards, vicars and servants all provide the inside scoop on their role in the big day

10.00 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013) Premiere. A divorced couple attend their adopted son's wedding, and pretend to still be married to avoid shocking his birth mother. Comedy, with Robert De Niro and Diane Keaton.

11.005 News Undate. 11.05 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013)

11.40 Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)

12.30 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. (R)
1.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Body in the Freezer: Countdown to Murder. (R) 4.00 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Only Connect 7.30 University Challenge 8.00 Sounds of the Seventies 8.10 Natural World 9.00 Imagine – 8. To Natural women 9.00 Imagine – Habeneros: You Say You Wanta Revolution? Part Two 10.30 Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor 11.30 Latin Music USA 12.30 Natural World 1.20 How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell 2.20 Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor 3.20 Close

ITV2

11.50 Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special 12.50 You've Been Framed! Gold 1.50 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) 2.50 FIVE July 2.55 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) 4.15 Britain's Got Talent 5.35 Fritain's Got More Talent 6.40 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) 10.00 Family Guy 11.30 American Daol 12.25 Film: What If (2013) 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV3

11.50 A Touch of Frost 1.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 3.55 Inspector Morse 6.00 Lewis 8.00 The Cruise 9.00 Tommy Cooper Forever 10.00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This 12.10 Blue Murder 2.05 Tommy Cooper Forever 2.55 Stephen Fry's Key to the City

ITV4

1.20 Mr Bean 2.25 The Big Fish Off 3.35
Film: The Green Berets (1968) 4.40 FY1
Daily 4.45 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 6.25 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) 7.25 FY1 Daily 7.30 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) 9.00 Film: Assassins (1995) 11.00 FIlm: Assassins (1995) 11.40 Film: Safe House (2012) 12.40 FY1 Daily 10.10
Film: Safe House (2012) 1.55 fils Not Rocket Science 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen
E4

E4
1.30 The Big Bang Theory 5.30 Young Sheldon 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Film: Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 The Inbetweener 11.10 The Big Bang Theory 12.10 Tattoo Fixers 1.15 Rude Tube 2.45 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.35 Hollyoaks

FIIM4
11.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) 1.00 Mirror Mirror (2012) 3.05 Carry On Constable (1960) 4.45 Congo (1995) 6.55 Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) 9.00 Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) 11.35 3:10 to Yuma (2007) 2.00 Radiator (2014) 3.55 Close

They said they'd restore my smile, WITH a memorable manly hand-shake, John Clews exudes a quiet, but gave me back deep-seated confidence. Articulate, transparent and at times philosophical, he's sharply focussed on why

to give people like me hope," he declares. The die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering - he's been helping to construct specialised aircraft parts for more than 46 years - but with multiple failing teeth, instinctively knew that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problemsolver.

he's agreed to do this interview: "I want

For years, gum disease had insidiously invaded his mouth until toothache had become part of his daily routine. Intellectually, he knew he needed a dentist - and a good one - but gripped by a crippling fear he'd "pop the paracetamol" rather than face his demons.

"Fear is a terrible thing . . . I remember sitting in a dentist's chair and gripping the armrests so hard I pulled one of them off,"

"I came here and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life. It's true," he adds.

Practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353 explains: "Periodontal disease is the biggest single cause of tooth loss in the UK and John's case is not unusual.

"There is plenty of study that examines the psychological impact of troublesome

nature of gum disease, it can happen slow-

ly as we make small changes to accommo-

date oral decline. Eventually, however, as

Matters came to head three years ago

when John's family booked a weekend

break at the Brecon Beacons to do a water-

falls walk. Adds John: "We take so many

things for granted. We'd been walking a

things become more acute we are less able

John Clews out-look on life

Predictably reassuring

good few hours and we were all ready for something to eat. Lifestyle investment

"We came across a cafe serving bacon sandwiches. But they hadn't got any normal bread and the bacon was served with baguettes. There was no way my teeth could have coped with the crusty bread so I ended up with a piece of cheesecake. I just so wanted a bacon sarnie, but my teeth had restricted my choice. That was it. At that point I decided to sort out my teeth.

"Too many times I'd go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manage four of the choices. I'd really want steak, but I couldn't chew it: sometimes I just wouldn't go and eat out and I was always on my guard about smiling

"And the toothache, the impact on daily

The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want.

It's a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it has made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom.

living . . . it just drags you down and confidence wanes." he says.

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and undergoing other remedial work, John is now able to live his life without teeth worries

"The implant teeth are great and I can eat what I want, go out for a meal when I want and more than this . . . I've got my life back," says the keen carp fisherman.

Explaining he could have changed his car, John adds such an investment would be lost very quickly. "This [the implants] has been a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it's made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom." he

And his dental phobia? "All the staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease.

The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576.

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Halesowen

FILM CHOICES

Social Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A-grade student Catherine Hardy's chances of securing a place at a good college are placed in ieopardy when inappropriate pictures and messages begin to appear on her social network profiles. It quickly becomes clear her accounts have been targeted by a malicious hacker, and she must discover whether the culprit is her boyfriend, a jealous schoolmate competing for a place at the same college, or someone much closer to home. Mystery thriller, starring Kirsten Prout. (2013)

Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3,15pm

A small community is shocked when a local man murders his wife, then kills himself. A detective uncovers evidence of an affair between the dead woman and the town's pastor and begins to suspect he may be implicated in the tragedy. To learn the truth, she must gain the trust of the couple's troubled enage daughter. Drama, starring John Stamos and



nder, Friday, BBC1, 11.50p

Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3,15pm

A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

THURSDAY

Patricia Cornwell's The Front, Channel 5, 3.15pm Detective Win Garano is recruited to reinvestigate decades-old murder, but finds someone is killing all the witnesses. Mystery drama, starring Andie MacDowell and Daniel Sunjata. Edited for daytime

FRIDAY

Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.50pm
The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

A Stern lesson awaits Hannah in leaving the family business

ock all your doors, close the curtains and ignore any bleeps from your mobile – a new Abi Morgan TV project is about to start, so you really don't want to be disturbed.

Cardiff-born Morgan is one of the most gifted scriptwriters around today, whether she's working for the stage or screen.

Plays such as Splendour, Tiny Dynamite and The Mistress Conduct have been acclaimed, but Conduct have been acclaimed, but she's gained more recognition for her film work (she wrote the screenplays for The Iron Lady and Shame, among others) and TV (the hugely underrated The Hour and Sex Traffic head her CV).

She's returning to the small screen this week with The Split, her first project for the medium since 2015's River.

"The Split will be an emotional and entertaining exploration of love, marriage and divorce, with Abi bringing her trademark wit, insight and truth to our two brilliant and strong women fighting to try and

work out how to survive modern life," says executive producer Jane Featherstone.

At its heart is the rather fraught relationship between three members of the same family – matriarch Ruth and her daughters Hannah, Nina and Rose.

While Rose, the younger sister, is till searching for her place in life still searching for her place in life and Nira is proving to be a formidable legal eagle, Hannah is a top divorce lawyer who had been working for her family's firm – until Ruth denied her the promotion she felt she deserved, prompting her to take a job with a rival company. Now mother, daughter and sister find themselves locking horns over complex divorce cases rather than collaborating.

"As Robin Williams once said "As Robin Williams once said 'Divorce is expensive... like ripping your heart out through your wallet," smiles Morgan. "The Split exposes the complex realities of high end divorce and broken marriage through female divorce lawyers and sisters embattled and bound by their own troubled past." Heading the cast is Nicola Walker, who's best known for her performances in Last Tango in Halifax and Unforgotten, but who also had a supporting role in the aforementioned River. She takes the part of Hannah.

"I'm delighted to be joining the The delighted to be joining the Defoe family and walking in Hannah's shoes as she picks her way through other people's marriages and relationships, all the while questioning her own," claims

Hannah is married to the smart Hannah is married to the smart and affable Nathan (Stephen Mangan), and they appear to be well-matched and happy – until her estranged father, who deserted his family 30 years earlier, appears out of the blue, prompting her to question all her male relationships.

To throw a further spanner in the yorks, Hannah is reconnecting with Christie, 'the one who got away'... Also included in the cast are

Meera Syal and Stephen Tompkinson as former childhood sweethearts Goldie and Davey.



PICK OF THE WEEK

Nicola Walker stars in The Split, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Holidays Unpacked

Channel 4, 8pm New series. Brits spend about £1,000 each on a week's holiday in the summer sun, with the majority heading to the Mediterranean. But could more fun be had for the same money? In this programme, Morland Sanders and Lucy Hedges road test up-and-coming travel destinations, taking viewers to on-trend destinations on everyday budgets. The first edition sees Lucy visit Israel to explore the desert and float in the Dead Sea, while Morland samples Costa Rica's pristine Pacific beaches and takes a zip-line through the cloud forest.

Fergie vs Wenger: The Feud Channel 5, 10pm

Channel 5 have issued a warning with this programme - apparently it contains highly offensive language, Oo-er, Those of us of a particularly ve nature had better not tune in; then again would we expect anything else from a footballrelated programme? Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger's rivalry is legendary and went on for years. Ferguson turned Manchester United into the English top flight's dominant force, while Wenger's Arsenal would occasionally nip in to steal their thunder if the Red Devils ever slipped up. Both men

had very different approaches to the beautiful game while one favoured a traditional approach, the other learnt valuable lessons from advances in sports science. Here, those who crossed their including Paul Scholes, Steve McClaren John Motson and Sol Campbell, offer their views.

Flight HS13

Channel 4, 11pm

reunion held to mark their

offspring's birthday, a surprise quest

shakes things up. The next day,

Like so many foreign language series to pop up on Channel 4 these days, this one comes courtesy of the streaming service Walter Presents and the box set of every episode will be available immediately after the first has aired tonight. But, if you prefer to watch dramas the old-fashioned way, fear not because we'll be drip-fed this Dutch thriller here every Tuesday for the next 10 weeks The plot focuses on happily married Simon and Liv. who complete with a wonderful son, a beautiful home and successful

Simon leaves for a medical conference in Barcelona disarray by the worst possible news.

WEDNESDAY

Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

BBC1. 9pm

Britain is on track to become the fattest country in Europe by 2025 unless Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has his way, that is. In this new series, he'll be trying to find out how obesity became such a problem and what we can do to stop it. That involves investigating some of the UK's biggest food brands and working alongside the

GPs and pharmacists who are tackling the problem on the frontlines. But at the heart of the series is a ground-breaking social experiment which sees Hugh challenging the Holidays Unpacked, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm people of

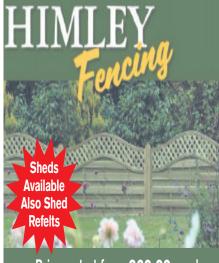
year. With the help of the city's council, he'll be encouraging the locals to make changes to their diet and get involved in physical activities, but can they collectively reach the ambitious target?

THURSDAY The Truth About Obesity BBC1, 8pm

Nearly one in four people in the UK qualifies as being obese, meaning their weight is significantly affecting the state of their health. Presenter Chris Bavin seeks out the latest research into obesity and the problems that are being passed down to future generations. He finds out what it means to be obese, what it does to the body and looks at the most up-to-date solutions available. He also reveals how viewers can test themselves with a simple piece of string to find out if they have the most damaging type of fat.

Our Wildest Dreams

New series. Ex-executive Mari leaves south-east London for a new life in Ecuador, hoping the move ith her native husband and their young daughter will bring her family closer.



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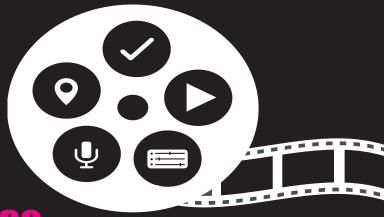
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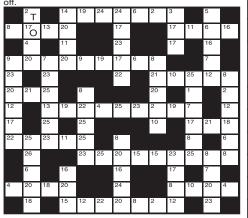


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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

¹ T	² R	°O	⁴ D	⁵ N	⁶ B	⁷ A	P	⁹ K	10 G	11 Z	12 H	¹³
14 Q	15 M	16 F	17 S	18 X	19	20 E	21 W	²² U	23 L	²⁴	²⁵ C	²⁶ J

O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Down

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 3. Plenty in favour of a merger (9)
- 8. Dash from Iceland
- 9. Sluggard making little progress with a tutor (9)
- 10. Class a number as
- precise (6)

 11. Almost rate as fools
- (5) **14.** Rob with a gun (5) 15. Absorbed with a
- new part (4) 16. Wounds in a most absent-minded way
- **18.** A vessel that has been taken out of the water (4)
- 20. Acted strangely for
- a Service trainee (5)

 21. Stretch of river?
- 24. Others acquire their habits from him (6)
- 25. Went to pieces when praised (7,2) 26. Norwegians
- live in what was Czechoslovakia (4) 27. Pay a visit after
 - some persuasion? (4.5)

- 1. Man of action, in his turn (9) 2. Not a bad bid for
- the roundabouts? (4,5)
- 4. List a waiter may be asked for (4)
- 5. Colours and
- becomes servile (5) 6. Rather earlier (6)
- 7. Not often seen in London certainly! (4)
- 9. These are sure to be brisk for beer on board (5) 11. Partly under water
- from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)
- 12. Old-timer (9)
- 13. Specify space available for a firstclass passenger (9) Throw away a fight?
- (5) 19. Possibly secure and
- free from danger (6) 22. Communist firm
- about belief (5) 23. After hesitation leave thus (4)
- 24. A diverting act? (4)

3. Declaration (9) 8. Shape (4) 9. Liveliness (9)

Quick Clues:

Across

- **10.** Vigour (6)
- 11. Pondered (5) **14.** Chop finely (5)
- 15. Tear (4) 16. Occurrence (5)
- 18. Flina (4)
- 20. Get up (5)
- 21. Compass (5) 24. Claim (6)
- 25. Detour (9) 26. Signify (4)
- **27.** The accused (9)

- 1. Consequences (9)
- 2. Immaturity (9) 4. Small (4)
- **5.** Time (5)
- 6. Affair (6)
- 7. Mid-day (4)
- 9. Concur (5)
- **11.** Bit (5)
- 12. Devoted (9)
- **13.** Retainer (9) 17. Seized (5)
- 19. Plan (6)
- 22. Sat for picture (5) 23. Conceal (4)
- 24. In adversity (4)

Sudoku

4					9			7
		3		6		5		1
	7		5		1		4	
9		8						
	2			3	4		9	
				7		4		6
	8		1		6		5	
	6	4		5		7		
2			7			6		8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Halesowen Chronicle

Thursday, April 19,

, 2018

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cold; 3 Educator; 8 Neon; 9 Returned; 11 Poor relation; 13 Rating; 14 Grocer; 17 Prison record; 20 Primates; 21 Zinc; 22 Speedier; 23 Aged. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Look out; 4 Dwells; 5 Court order; 6 Tango; 7 Ride; 10 Grandstand; 12 Produced; 15 Crowing; 16 Inhere; 18 Raise;

19 Opus. QUICK - Across: 1 Pact; 3 Dampness; 8 Real

QUICK - Across: 1 Pact; 3 Dampness; 8 Heai; 9 Predator; 11 Embarrassing; 13 Strict; 14 Proper; 17 Evil speaking; 20 Extended; 21 Maze; 22 Besieged; 23 Less. Down: 1 Perverse; 2 Chamber; 4 Airman; 5 Pedestrian; 6 Eaten; 7 Sure; 10 Truculence; 12 Progress; 15 Private; 16 Sphere; 18 Votes; 19 Herb.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

16345276 1278 9537

gives a small animal, gives a second small animal, gives small particles.



Quiz

- Who played Fred's mother-in-law in the 1994 live action film The Flintstones?
- In which country did King Farouk abdicate in 1952?
 Which Beatles song was covered by 1,186
- performers in its first seven years? What type of animal is the blackcap? On which Scottish island was John Smith
- buried? On what date does Epiphany fall?
- Which artform uses labanotation?
- 8. Which food sustained the Israelites in the wilderness?
- 9. In which country is Doi Inthanon the highest mountain?
- 10. In which year was the Suez Crisis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Nelson Mandela: 2 The New Yorker:

3 A snake; 4 Rhine; 5 1978; 6 Hansard;

7 The Spanish Armada Medal; 8 Sir Compton

Mackenzie: 9 Chile: 10 Marshal.

Niner: ALCHEMIST

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Girlie lunch just in the Nick of time

OH, to be ladies what lunch. My friend and I lived our improbable dream with a lunch date at the swanky Harvey Nichols Restaurant in The Mailbox.

Just to give you a bit of background, I met said friend at a pregnancy yoga class. In our pre-child naivety, we thought our maternity year would be littered with lunches together; elegant affairs in which we'd sip Prosecco and nibble chiccetti-style plates while spooning Ella's Kitchen mush into the mouths of our contended babes, who absolutely weren't demanding Peppa Pig on YouTube.

How wrong we were. I seem to remember our only 'lunch date' was a rather fraught hour spent with our little ones in Nando's, ending in us both exhausted and apologising to waiting staff for the amount of debris under the table. Hardly what we'd envisaged.

FRAUGHT

So on a child-free, work-free Thursday we ventured into town for a day of shopping and lunching, with the possibility of a swim afterwards. We felt just like the happy-go-lucky teenagers we once were, but with more than a bus pass, a cute boy's phone number (home landline, obvs) and a fiver in our pockets. After a morning mooching round the shops we

After a morning mooching round the shops we headed to Harvey Nicks for a spot of lunch. It's a sophisticated venue which feels very grown-up, ideal for boozy brunches, lunches, afternoon teas and cocktailsoaked dinners with friends. An Art Deco-inspired space, it has a beautiful buffed parquet floor, and ontrend use of gold, leather and pastel pike and green.

trend use of gold, leather and pastel pink and green. On this occasion the restaurant was quiet and we had the pick of the tables even though I'd made a booking on the website. As we moved on to the wine the 'possibility' of going swimming afterwards was





becoming probably impossible. Oh well. She ordered a glass of Sauvignon Blanc while I pushed the boat out with a $\mathfrak{L}10$ glass of Sancerre. It was delicious, golden nectar and went straight to my head.

When Harvey Nicks relaunched in the Mailbox a few years ago, the restaurant menu was curated by Yummy Brummie Michelin star chef Glynn Purnell. However, recently Stewart Mackie has taken over as head chef and – similarly to before – the menu is packed with temptation; choices include salads, risottos, and burgers. There are a couple of steaks on offer for

hungry carnivores, and a reasonably-priced special menu offers three courses for $\mathfrak{L}22$.

My friend chose the risotto topped with halloumi and aubergine, while I chose the sweet potato and chickpea tagine with grilled courgette.

Our food arrived and looked delish. Light-headed from the wine, I eagerly tucked into my tagine. The veg were well cooked, not overly soft however, the dish as a whole was a bit bland.

My friend said her comforting bowl of risotto was lovely and creamy with just the right amount of bite.

For dessertl chose the sticky toffee pud and vanilla ice cream for which I'm sure I'd need to swim an entire ocean to burn off its calorie content. The giant wedge of airy sponge was as wicked as I expected.

airy sponge was as wicked as I expected.

Meanwhile, my friend opted for the peanut butter cheesecake with popcorn and blackberries. She polished off the lot and didn't offer me any so it must have been good.

The bill, including service, came to just over £70. reasonable for such an agreeable lunch. An adult day out, just in the Nick of time! EMILY BRIDGEWATER

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David Broxton on 07834 489558.

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07580 465449.

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Skip Hire

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01902 319 191

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Pets Corner

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Bill - TV Link

ClassifiedAds

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t have NVQ 3 or above and willing to work flexible hours 30 hours pw - must have NVQ 3 or above and winning as account for Assistants
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4X4

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£5,500 ono 07729 953812.



2007. 112,015 miles. Red. FSH. MoT October Automatic, Metallic paint, Full leather interior. Very good condition. £4.250 ono.



1.0 3dr, 2008, 53k, FSH, new clutch,12 month MOT and serviced last week, 3 month warranty.

07867 473870



PEUGEOT 3008 1.6 SPORT

2010. 77,000 Miles. Pearl white. Electric windows. Electric mirrors Metallic paint. Central locking. Cruise control.

£3850 ono. Tel: 07909 981199



VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN

2007. 64,500 Miles. Grey. ABS Electric windows. Central locking. PAS. Full MoT. Half leather seats. Very good condition. £1,899 ono. 07879 403302.



VAUXHALL CORSA SXI

2007, 47,700 miles,1364cc, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, very good condition.

£2,199 ono. 07879 403302

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

CHEVROLET 1.2

Black. 2010 plate

Good clean car inside and out.

94,015 miles.

MoT till November 2018.

Any trial.

£995 ono.

07787 424218 / 01902 238488.

LOW MILEAGE JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Cars Over £1500

FORD FUSION 1.4 PETROL 2006, metallic blue, long MoT, fsh, alloy wheels, very low mileage 8,400, electric mirrors / electric front windows, PAS, event windows, PAS, explant condition

Classic saloon, November 2005, manual, MoT February 2019, 47,400 miles, very eco-nomical, alloy wheels, very good condition.

£2.595

01384 291853



VAUXHALL CORSA SXI Very good condition. FSH. Full MoT. 1.2 litre 3 door. £3,499 ono. 07879 403302.

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BARGAIN

CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE 2007, 5-dr hatchaback, grey clean car inside and out, 133,015 miles.

MoT till March 2019, £1.095 ono.

Any trial 07787 424281. 01902 238488



c windows, centra pas, CD, full MoT, 1.6 16v petrol. £899 ono. 07879 403302.

GOOD RUNNER

FORD MONDEO 1.8LX ESTATE

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07990 964860.

BARGAIN

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Telephone 07405 426386



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P. Reg. Red, MoT, FSH. Excellent runner. Bargain £375 ovno. 07973 775560.

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Good condition

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MoT to August

£950 01384 292433.

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£1.499.

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£2,950 07768 841443.

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Genuine replies only.

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Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



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Wolverhampton area Box Number P21151, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



Easy going, WLTM nice lady, slim build with GSOH aged 50-65 years to enjoy meals/days out, holidays, countryside etc.

Box Number P21153, Express and Star.

Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

61 YEAR OLD MALE

61 YEAR OLD MALE
With own place and car, young
at heart, non smoker, GSOH,
sincere and genuine likes old
pubs, walks, holidays, most
music and interesting places. WLTM honest warm hearted WLIM nonest warm neared female, similar age for Friendship, fun and company that will hopefully lead to a relationship, attraction is important so would like a photo (returned).

Box Number P21147, Express and Star. Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



With GSOH.
Lives in small village.
Enjoys Dining out and Theatre.
WLTM Gentleman companion
for Friendship. Box Number P21146 Express and Star.





01902 317878

Classified Ads



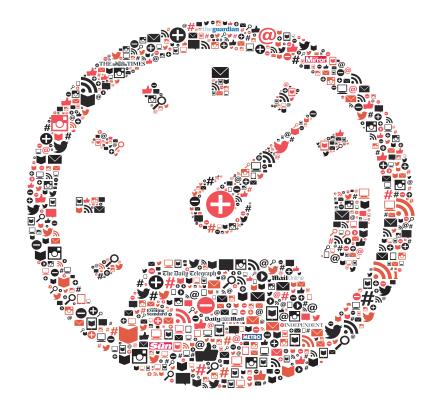


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How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarketing recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers. And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail Automotive Finance
2.8x 1.7x 5.7x

So, whatever the size your business or budget, get motoring into newspapers.

For the full story and more details: newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness









Specification and price for the 2018 Outback

Host to a series of updates, both exterior and interior, Outback is a rugged crossover estate, redesigned to raise cabin quality and refine the model's plethora of safety offerings. Boasting a significant upgrade in technology and trim, the changes come at no extra costs for customers as pricing remains the same as the previous model.

Among the most significant changes to the exterior is the redesigned front grille, bumper, door mirrors and headlights. The hexagonal grille redesign showcases a sharper, more defined shape and incorporates the distinctive Subaru wing design, which draws parallels to the iconic horizontally opposed Boxer engine.

An addition to both the exterior design and the safety

An addition to both the exterior design and the safety suite is a new front view camera, which has been positioned below the marques six-star badge. Placed on the front grille, the front view camera can monitor a 180°-degree area in front of the car that would normally be in the driver's blind spot. These images, as well as visible guidelines, are displayed on the touchscreen to aide drivers in gauging potential hazards in front of the car and improve overall mange usering

car and improve overall manoeuvering.
Allowing for increased all-round visibility, the 2018
Outback SUV is fitted with an additional side view
camera mounted at the base of the passenger door
mirror. Displaying the area diagonally in front of the
passenger side of the Outback, the resulting imaging
allows drivers to navigate through narrow spaces with
greater ease.

Safety

A welcome addition to the Outback is the inclusion of Lane Keep Assist, which completes the EyeSight driver assistance safety technology suite – included as standard on all 2018 Outback models. Lane Keep Assist offers gentle steering control if the vehicle is about to deviate from its lane at approximately 40mph or above. Subaru's EyeSight driver assist technology suite includes: Adaptive Cruise Control, Lead Vehicle Start Alert, Lane Sway and Departure Warning, Lane Keep Assist, Pre-collision Braking System and Pre-collision Throttle Management.

Steering Responsive Headlights are also new, improving driver safety and increasing visibility at night. The headlight beams mirror the driver's steering input to illuminate corners when turning.

Interior changes include a subtle redesign. New decorative gloss black panels and silver surrounds create a consistent and sophisticated look, whilst the touchscreen size has been increased from 7" to a new 8" multifunction colour touchscreen for the SE Premium model, which is also compatible with both Apple CarPlay™ & Android Auto™ and DAB radio functionality. The SE trim level also receives a refresh with an updated 6.5" multifunction colour touchscreen and fabric seating trim with heated front seats.

Outback is powered by a naturally-aspirated 2.5-litre 'FB25' petrol unit. Due to the size and shape of Subaru's Boxer engine, it is installed lower down and further back than a conventional engine for a lower centre of gravity and transitions beneath the passenger compartment in the event of a collision, providing an added level of safety for occupants within the vehicle. The Boxer engine – with its unique 'punch-counterpunch' rotational cycle – offers smoothness, low vibration and noise, plus excellent accelerator response. The 2.5L engine produces 175PS at 5,800rpm and 235Nm torque at 4,000rpm. The engine returns fuel economy of 38.7mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions of 166g/km.

Prices for the 2018 Subaru Outback start from £29,995 for the SE Model and £33,010 for the SE



An executive express with practicality, interior space and all-weather ability

By John Griffiths

Driving can be a stressful experience – and all the more so when the weather turns bad.

So confidence in your car is important as I found when Volvo met the Beast from the East.

The Swedes know a bit about snow driving, and it showed in the way the V90 Cross Country (a big, practical estate with the benefit of four wheel drive) shrugged off the icy blast and blizzard on a return trip from Wales.

Rapid windscreen and back window-clearing heaters, dual zone climate control, heated seats and a heated steering wheel (what a surprising difference that makes!) means you are cosy, comfortable and cocooned from the elements.

Meanwhile the four wheel drive system and the array of driver aids and safety systems for which Volvo is renowned gives you confidence that you will soon be back by a warm fireside.

The Cross Country is the flagship of the V90 premium estate range, no less tough and practical for its lavish, comfortable interior.

Premium

Prices start from £42,520 but the test car was near the top of the range, with the more powerful D5 PowerPulse engine (235 as opposed to 190bhp) and in Pro specification, which means lots of added extras and comes with a list price of £47,905

The test car was also something of a shop window for optional extras, taking the total price up by another $\mathfrak{L}10,000$ – including $\mathfrak{L}3,000$ for the premium Bowers and Wilkins sound system.

It's more than 20 years since Volvo added four wheel drive and the 'Cross Country' tag to its big estate range, a move later copied by premium German rivals. Such cars were always something of a niche product: more so now because of the burgeoning demand for full-blown SUVs. Volvo itself now has three in varying sizes and prices. But Volvo is something of an icon for those who want or need a big estate car, and in spite of its lower, sleeker looks the V90 Cross country is no less capable.

As well as four driven wheels, the car has 65mm extra

As well as four driven wheels, the car has 65mm extra ground clearance over the standard V90, a slightly wider track, side protectors and skid plates front and rear, and proved more than capable of tackling some very muddy forest tracks.

On the road, though, where the car will spend the majority of its time it's a match for any luxury car: smooth, quiet and relaxing to drive.

It will seat five in comfort with room for their luggage – 560 litres of cargo space, rising to 1,536 litres if the electrically-operated rear seats and headrests are folded down. The tailgate is electrically operated, too.

From the outside, even the Cross Country's extra height doesn't detract from its sleek, even sporty lines: you



It's more than 20 years since Volvo added four wheel drive and the 'Cross Country' tag to its big estate range

are only really aware of its size when you park next to something more conventional.

That's mirrored by the driving experience, too: a cosseting ride while remaining as agile as many a smaller vehicle. It suits that relaxed but capable ambience which is the car's hallmark.

That's enhanced, too, by Volvo's 'pilot assist' system, an advanced form of cruise control. Set your chosen speed and the radar system will keep you a set distance from traffic ahead, autonomously braking if necessary, and resuming the selected speed when its clear.

It will also, on a motorway or dual carriageway, ensure you stay between your lane lines with gentle steering inputs.

The Pro specification test car also came with features such as blind spot monitoring, cross traffic alert, run-off road mitigation, city safety system capable of detecting pedestrians, cyclists and animals as well as the more usual stability, ABS and airbag systems.

You can change the car's character at the touch of a button, with comfort, economy or the stiffer, more dynamic sport mode. Economy, which softens the throttle and transmission responses, also proved ideal when driving on snow and ice.

The turbo diesel engine is, at two litres and four cylinders, relatively small for a car of this size but isn't lacking in performance. As well as its 235bhp it has 480Nm of torque and comes with PowerPulse, a compressed air system which eliminates any hint of turbo

lag. This combination makes it quick off the mark (0 to 62mph in 7.5 seconds) but more importantly, working through a slick automatic transmission any demand for power – for example when overtaking – is met instantly and effectively.

The official fuel economy figure (laboratory tests) is just under 50mpg, while I averaged a little over 37mpg in my time with the car. Its CO2 rating is 151g/km.

The cabin has a upmarket appeal, with lashings of leather and upmarket trim materials. Four zone climate control on the test car (two zone is standard) plus a panoramic sunroof added to the ambience.

The dash is tidy and minimalist, largely because manfunctions are controlled by driver or passenger via the nine-inch colour touchscreen in the centre. This includes the Sensus navigation system, audio system, smartphone and Bluetooth connectivity.

The driver, of course, has remote controls on the steering wheel for operating many of the secondary systems, plus speed limiter and cruise control, at the touch of a thumb and an eight-inch selectable information panel between the main digital instruments.

The Cross Country is an executive express with added practicality – its interior space and all-weather ability – in its favour.

While many saloons and estates have lost out to SUVstyled vehicles in recent years, the Volvo stands up to comparison with many such rivals, especially when price and running costs are taken into account.

Every millimetre counts in new RX L

Sometimes it only takes a small change to make a big difference. That's how Lexus has succeeded in designing its first seven-seat version of the RX luxury SUV, the new Lexus RX L.

Focusing on small but crucial details, Lexus has created an impressive new member of the RX familly, adding more seats to the cabin yet maintaining all of the comfort, convenience and quality that are true to the brand's omotenashi principles of hospitality.

The new model is now available to order in the UK, with customer deliveries commencing mid-May.

Inside the new RX L there are two extra

Inside the new RX L there are two extra seats, generous knee and headroom for everyone and plenty of space for luggage But on the outside, the car is only 110mm longer than the five-seat model – barely the width of a man's hand.

In fact, it's by adding those few extra millimetres that Lexus has gone further than most of its competitors, in effect creating a new body for the RX, rather than trying to squeeze more seats into its existing model.

At first glance, there's no mistaking that this is an RX, with all the intriguingly

elegant and incisive styling that make it of the best-looking models in its class. The designers were clear that the RX's distinctive coupe-like profile had to be preserved.

But look more closely and you will notice that not only is the RX L longer at the rear, the angle of its tailgate has been made slightly steeper.

That fine adjustment is actually important in making sure there's comfortable headroom for anyone sitting in the third row of seats.

Even more valuable millimetres have been gained simply by moving the rear wiper mechanism from the top to the bottom of the window.

Open the door and you will see just how smart a solution Lexus has come up with to provide a third row of seats and a lay-out that's easy to adapt when you need more space for luggage.

Raise the seats, or stow one or both

Raise the seats, or stow one or both of them flat: it just takes the press of a button.

The seats are finished to the same high quality as the rest of the cabin and are comfortable for youngsters or adults for long journeys or shorter trips. The RX L



The first seven-seat version of the RX luxury SUV, the new Lexus RX L

means that when you want a night out with friends for example, you need only take one car.

The cabin is designed to be a social space, what Lexus designers call a

"lounge" effect that's open and light and where it's easy for everyone to see what's happening, share conversations and enjoy the in-car entertainment together on longer journeys.

























































pinnacle of her own sport by being crowned Olympic champion, Denise Lewis wants to make it easier for

future generations to chase their dream. Wolverhampton's golden girl has once more been a regular presence on our TV screens, in her familiar role as pundit for the BBC during its coverage of the Commonwealth Games.

Except this time, Lewis has more invested in the action than most.

Since 2015, she has been president of Commonwealth Games England, the organisation responsible

for, among other things, ensuring English athletes have the best chance to shine on the Gold Coast. Lewis and her team have spent time scouting trainhews and net ream have spent time scotting transing venues, sourcing sponsors, while also focusing on the many and varied logistical demands of a major championship.

We meet at the official announcement of a new sponsorship deal with the energy company, npower. Such things are often, understandably, overlooked by

Entwined

Yet for Lewis – and more particularly the athletes – the two are often entwined. "Funding is tight," she says. "We're grateful to have these sponsors come on board. Of course it is great for the brand. But it is also about what we can do for the athletes and how we can continue to flowish."

continue to flourish."
Lewis replaced double Olympic champion Kelly
Holmes in the role after England had finished top of
the medals table at Glasgow 2014.
"The challenges have been making sure we get the
tone right, the right venues.
"The checking back and forth, right from the Youth

continue to flourish.'

"The checking back and forth, right from the Youth Games, that was important, where we bring on talent, how we can support their pathway through to senior events?"

Though three decades have passed since she travelled each day from Tettenhall's Regis School to train in Birmingham – Lewis remains hugely passionate and acutely aware of her roots.

"I think I mirror the beginning of many athletes, restimularly from this region" she says.

SPORTING FEATURE

challenges ahead"

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the

"There was a lot of travelling, facilities weren't always brilliant. But having something to focus on, to express yourself, can really turn your life around. It's that ripple effect, making someone else think differently or join you in that journey.

"I know who helped me along my way – my schoolteachers, from primary to secondary and beyond, my work colleagues. That inspires me. How can we make a difference? How can we give athletes coming through a reason to compete for their country?"

The theme of progression is one continually re-

The theme of progression is one continually repeated by Lewis and from an athlete's perspective is often the very purpose of the Commonwealth Games.

Often referred to as the 'Friendly Games' – it has a well-earned reputation as a breeding ground for fu-ture stars. There is no better example than Lewis her-self, who twice won Commonwealth gold before going

on to be crowned champion at the Sydney Olympics 2000. 'The Commonwealth Games is so, so important. s integral to the pathway," she says. "If you can "The Commonwealth Games is so, so important. It's integral to the pathway," she says. 'If you can win there, it can really hold you in good stead for the future. There are athletes going to these championships with no senior international experience.

"In my event for example, the heptathlon, Niamh Emerson has been selected for the first time, a great junior athlete and she'll be using that opportunity to see how she will handle her nerves. see how she will handle her nerves.

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the challenges ahead'.

"Being so far away from home, the jet lag, the different time zone and the pressure of being such a big team. It's very different. Then you'll have the expe-

rienced athletes who are at their second or third and will want to go out on a high."

According to Lewis, those experienced athletes also have a role to play in helping their younger teammates move up to the next level.

"You could be next to an Olympic champion, for example. You watch how they conduct themselves."

Though the entire England team consists of nearly 600 competitors, most of Lewis's attention during the Games will naturally be drawn to the track and field events.

Lewis beneves a busy year, with the World Indoors having already taken place and the Europeans scheduled at the end of the summer – has perhaps added another layer of difficulty to a Championship where medals are typically expected rather than hoped for. "The ambition is big, we have a great team. But you know the friendly rivalry we have down under it's not count to be easy. They the Australians) proposed and

Lewis believes a busy year, with the World Indoors

going to be easy. They (the Australians) prepared and up for the challenge.

"A lot of athletes will have gone into the winter

with real gusto, there are three big championships, the Commonwealth Games is one they'll be citing where they can really make their mark. Some athletes aren't able to win on the global stage. **Deliver**

"But they can make sure they deliver in an environ-ment which is welcoming, they'll have good weather and all things combined the optimistic ones will be

looking to do really well."

And four years from now it is this region which will And four years from now it is this region which will take centre stage.

The Perry Barr school in which we meet is barely 15 minutes walk from the soon-to-be renovated Alexander Stadium, while a small, until now unremarkable corner of Smethwick will be the home of a new world-class swimming facility.

Lewis has spent the morning running a coaching session for pupils and believes there has never been a better time to heefin inspiring the stars of the future.

session for pupils and believes there has never been a better time to begin inspiring the stars of the future. "This is where we start sowing the seeds," she says. "Something big is happening to Birmingham – it's very exciting and children today in four years they'll be in secondary school and hopefully doing more sport. One of these kids might be on the path to being involved in sport in a serious way.

Denise Lewis celebrating winning the Gold medal in the Women's Heptathlon at the Olympic Games in Sydney Staffs hit heights of aerobics excellence

heights at the West Midlands Regional Championships.

The club, which is based in Hawks Green, Cannock, produced a stunning series of displays that resulted in their best-ever haul of medals with all 28

SOUTH Staffs Aerobics Club are targeting national glory after hitting the

series of displays that resulted in their best-ever haul of medals with all 28 members returning home with a gold or silver.

Gemma Chilton, who runs the club, was left staggered by the success. "This is our best year yet for sure," she said. "We have been running for 19 years. Last year we had gymnasts in the top six, but this year we went with 28 athletes and 11 partnerships and all 28 participants came back with a gold or silver medal, and eight of the partnerships won their grade." Now South Staffs' winners will go on to represent the club and the region at national level. The club are hoping to get more people involved. They have a range of ages, with their youngest participant being three years old, and the eldest 22. Gymnasts must be born between 1997and 2002. To arrange a trial email southstaffsacrobatics@yahoo.co.uk

Oldswinford must play waiting game

their WCB Indoor League campaign with a victory.

A final ball success against Chaddesley lifted Oldswinford to the top of the table and now they are sweating on the results from Stourbridge and Coombs Wood's final games with both sides able to overhaul the leaders. Chaddesley posted 110-2 against Oldswinford, who were indebted to a fine knick from Tom Blunt in reply. He ended unbeaten on 37, hitting the winning runs off the final delivery

rie ended unbeaten on 37, hitting the winning runs off the final delivery of the game. Alex Bullingham also impressed with 25 not out. Quatt just missed out on recording their first win of the season in their final outing as they went down by seven runs to Pedmore. John Hurdman (26 not out) helped Pedmore to 105-3. Quatt started their reply impressively with Dan Plank (25 not out) leading the victory charge. But they lost their way in the second half of the innings and were restricted to 98-3.

400/1 for Wolves to be Premier champs

may nave only just won promotion, but they already being priced up by bookmakers for their first season back in the Premier League.

Nuno Espirito Santo's men have been quoted as 400/1 by bet365 to become champions in their first season back in the top flight – a feat no team has achieved since Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won the title in 1977/78.

Championship.

Bet365's Steve Freeth said: "There's a bullishness from Wolves fans

Pression Loggie and you sense the club aren't

In 1977/78. Should your sights be set a little lower, you can get 20/1 for a top-six finish – which would see European football return to Molineux for the first time since the 1980/81 season. Odds are also priced at 7/4 for a top-half finish and 2/5 for a bottom-half position, while Wolves are as long as 5/1 to make an instant return to the Chambinghia.

about their return to the Premier League and you sense the club aren't returning just to make up the numbers."



Denise says it's all in the Games

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Glassboys denied by late spot kick

Stourbridge 2 Workington 3 STOURBRIDGE endured a flat atmosphere and performance as youthful Workington returned to Cumbria with maximum points.

The Glassboys, coming off a 4-1 week-end victory over Stalybridge, fought back from behind thanks to strikes from Brad Birch and Luke Benbow, but quickly conceded a leveller and succumbed to Steve Rigg's late penalty. Workington led three minutes in when

Rigg crashed in a header off the underside of the bar from Robert Wilson's

Wolves loanee Nicu Carnat tried to inject some life and went close with a twice-hit effort 15 minutes in.

The move of the match brought about the leveller as Carnat, Benbow and Chris Gallagher combined before Birch burst through and lashed in. Stourbridge were

on the front foot and they moved in front two minutes after half-time.

Benbow picked his spot with a 25-yard free-kick from the left of the box, caressing over the wall and inside the near post.

But the jery legted less than a minute.

But the joy lasted less than a minute as Jordan Holt rolled into Leo Holliday, whose 18-yard shot trickled via a small deflection into the bottom left corner of

Matt Gould's goal.

Workington enjoying marginally better fortunes in the final third and when home defender Darryl Westlake tangled with Sam Smith, Rigg stroked in from 12 yards to decide matters in front of the 379 crowd.

Victorious start in six club swim clash for the youngsters

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Chase hoping for a strong performance to start the push for promotion in the Nuneaton Junior League, having been relegated to the second division.

A dominant display saw Hales take victory with 221 points, ahead of second-placed Bromsgrove on 206 and Warley Waps third with 190.

There were many strong performances from swimmers making their competitive debut. These swimmers included the 9-year-old girls team of Sophie Clare, Evic Coles, Holly Dunnaker and Layla Bedford. The 9-year-old boys team all had race wins on their debut, Jacob Mellor in the 1L freestyle and Charlie Simplor in the 1L freestyle and Ch

had race wins on their debut, Jacob Mellor in the 1L freestyle and Charlie Simpson in 1L breaststroke. Charlie joined Owen Worton, Ben Hargreaves and Harry Everton to win the medley relay. Isabelle Sykes, also a debut, was on the winning 10-year-old girls freestyle relay team. Other event winners were Maxwell Asante-Boakye, Jack South, Caleb Darby, Ryan Worton, Maia Noonan, Anabel Stark, Olivia Fiddler, Grace Guy, Erin Kelly, Audrey Hackett, Freya Dunn and Francesca Cox-Coley.



Winners - Maria Catalano, left, and Reanne Evans

Dudley double snooker triumph

IT was a double Dudley triumph at the WLBS Festival of Women's Snooker tournament at Leeds when Reanne Evans and Maria Catalano teamed up for a 3-0 victory over Laura Evans and Suzie Opaic to win their first world women's

and Suzie Opaic to win their first world women's pairs championship.

It was three out of three trophies for Evans. Earlier at the Northern Snooker Centre she came back from 3-1 down to claim the 2018 World Women's 6-Red Championship following a dramatic 4-3 victory against Ng On Yee. Evans had also beaten her rival On Yee to capture the World Women's 10-Red Championship 4-1.

Last week in the World Championship qualifiers Evans' hopes of reaching the finals was brought to an end by former quarter-finalist Dominic Dale, the world number 44.

The 32-year-old from Dudley lost 10-7 to Welshman Dale in the first round of qualifying.

Evans is an 11-time women's world champion and was one of two women included in the 128-player draw for this year's World Championship the other being reigning women's champion

ship, the other being reigning women's champion Ng On Yee.
On Yee was knocked out at the first hurdle by

Matthew Selt, losing 10-1.

Dave likes to be beside the seaside

WITH many runners looking ahead to the London Marathon, there were only a few racers in action at the weekend from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Dave Hickman was first off the spring marathon blocks competing in the Brighton Marathon. The classic 26.2 mile distance is always a test and the Brighton course along the seafront can be doubly hard depending on the the Brighton course along the searont can be doubly hard depending on the weather, either strong winds or blazing sun can ruin a good winter's training. Luckily conditions were in his favour as Hickman finished in 3.46.27 to take 1,942nd place.

Closer to home a number of blue hoop iersews travelled to Stafford for their

jerseys travelled to Stafford for their rearranged half marathon, originally planned for mid March when the race was cancelled due to snow and put back a month.

a month.

Over a testing course with some long dragging inclines Dave Norman was first back into Market Square for the hoops with a town centre finish in 1.24.44 to take 36th place overall and third in his

take 36th place overall and third in his age group.
Graham Wildgoose finished in 1.38.06 in 276th, Richard Tonks was 393rd in 1.42.17, Kathryn Sneyd finished in 1.45.45 in 581st place, Russell Fox was 1224th in 1.59.35, Aimee Pugh was 1611th in 2.09.22. 'Fresh' from last week's Manchester Marathon Claire Hancox and Malcolm Beddall finished in 1752nd and 1753rd respectively in the same time of 2.15.02 and Charlotte Tonks was 2205th in 2.45.04.

LATE PENALI DOWNS YELTZ

Coalville 1 Halesowen 0

A LAST-GASP penalty spelt heartbreak for Halesowen Town when they should have got at least a point at Coalville.

The Yeltz could have been ahead in the first half, Daniel Bragoli having three good chances. His first on 15 minutes he put wide and the second on 31 he blazed over after being set up by Lee Hughes. Bragoli also hit the side netting ten min-

utes before half-time. But a substitution for



But a substitution for Halesowen almost paid off in the 73rd minute when Danny Byrnes brought off a save from Elliott Taylor in the Coalville goal. Marcus Poscha managed to get through for Halesowen on 82 minutes but had the ball taken off him when about to shoot.

Three minutes from the end Tom McGlinchey

Roland Agbor celebrates his goal. Picture: Dave Hawley
found Nat Watson who dragged his shot wide but it was Watson who dragged his shot wide but it was Watson who scored the penalty when McGlinchey was adjudged to have been tripped by Asa Charlton in the area in the 91st minute.

Halesowen 1 Ashton 1

Yeltz had to be content with a point after Evo-Stik League Premier Division play-off chasers Ashton fired home an equaliser in the final seconds of added time.

Halesowen thought they'd taken a 30th-minute lead when Hughes set up Ahmed Ali to slot home, but his effort was ruled out. Home substitute Roland Agbor changed the game and caused immediate danger with a 66th-minute shot before he put the Yeltz ahead four minutes later with a fine 10-yard finish at the end of a weaving run.

The visitors had a 90th minute effort disallowed for offside after Platt saved a shot from Evangelinos and Liam Tomsett turned the rebound home. But Tomsett had the last word with the final move of the game in the third minute of stoppage time.

Peak performances at Games



Stourbridge's Rachel Wallader in action at the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast

WORDSLEY'S Dominique Allen has returned

WORDSLEY'S Dominique Allen has returned home from the Commonwealth Games with a silver medal, whilst Stourbridge athlete Rachel Wallader just missed out.

Allen, the 28-year-old basketball player and her England team lost their final 99-55 to Australia, but she was thrilled with her whole experience on the Gold Coast.

"So happy," she said. "This is one of the highlights of my career. I went to the Olympics. You can't pick. Winning a medal is amazing in the Olympics when it's in your home country. I can't pick which is better.

"I hope basketball gets some really good ex-posure. This shows that we can win medals on big stages against the best teams in the world." Wallader hit a season's best in the Common-

Wallader hit a season's best in the Common-wealth shot put final but missed out on a medal and the Stourbridge thrower was left to rue what might have been. The 28-year-old threw 17.48m, good enough for sixth in the final. It was a slight regression on fourth place four years ago in Glasgow but that distance would have won her a medal in Scotland in 2014. "This is the best I have thrown in a major so there are alt of positives" "she said

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Tennis club's four team promotions

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club is celebrating quadruple success.
WLTC Men's A and B teams won the top two places in the Hereford and Worcester Winter League division 7, A just two points ahead of B, for both to gain promotion.

The Men's C team also won promotion after finishing second in division 9, having lost only once and that to champions

Worcester.
Wollaston Ladies also had winter success with the Ladies B team winning promotion after winning all their fixtures bar one against league winners David Lloyd Bromsgrove.

* Some Exclusions Apply

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there are a lot of positives," she said.





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